

# The Beaver Beacon



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

November 1963

After the most perfect October anyone could remember, the very first day of November let us know that winter was soon to follow, as wind blown snowflakes filled the air. The leaves are down and the geese are heading south, ending one season and starting another.

**SHIP WRECK AT ST. JAMES:** On the morning of the 9th of October, Island residents were startled to see a stone laden barge, half submerged, right in the middle of the harbor. The Mackinaw Islander, owned by Ernest Manthei and skippered by Dick Lyons, had left Port Inland in the wee hours of the morning, with the barge in tow, heading for Charlevoix, where they were using the crushed stone to fill a private dock. As they passed Whiskey Island, they noticed the barge was settling at the stern, so a run for St. James was made. Just inside the harbor, the barge settled on the bottom. After studying the situation, the stone was transferred from the stern of the barge to the Mackinaw Islander and with some pumping, the barge raised from the bottom and was towed to its destination.

**SPORTS AFIELD:** The ball diamond at the point saw plenty of action this summer with at least one soft ball game each Sunday afternoon. With the tang of fall in the air it seemed only right to follow the rest of the nation and put the bats and gloves away and dig out the football. Whether a final score was made or whether another game is scheduled, we don't know but the results were devastating. Andy Anderson, of the Coast Guard Station, sprained an ankle, Gordon VanderMite, also sprained an ankle and Jack Martin broke a bone in his foot. The Medical Center's supply of crutches are now all in use and the Sunday afternoon game has been reduced to pool at the Shamrock.

**WEATHER:** Our weather report for the month of October, by Vernon Fitzpatrick, is as follows:

Highest Day	October 24th	76 degrees
Average Daytime Temperature		65 degrees
Lowest Night	October 30th	31 degrees
Average Nighttime Temperature		46 degrees

Rain fell on 5 days in October.  
The heaviest rainfall was on October 2nd with 1.25 inches.  
Total rainfall was 1.60 inches for October.

**OUT OF THE BLUE:** The spirit of football carries a long ways. Many think that residents of Beaver Island are isolated and away from collegiate

influence. Karl Erber, of Charlevoix, spent the last week-end of October at his cottage on the Island and was surprised Sunday morning to see a cluster of yellow balloons hanging in a tree behind his cottage. Upon retrieving them, he noticed printing on them. "Wish Again Mich" "U. of M. Homecoming". The cluster contained about 30 balloons. Dick and Musette LaFreniere checked into this matter and came up with the facts. Through correspondence with Dr. Sorensen, they learned that the balloons were released at the Michigan-Minnesota game at Minneapolis on Saturday, the 26th and these were found on Beaver Island on the 27th. They covered the distance of 500 miles in one day and quite a coincidence at that, to hit a piece of land in the middle of Lake Michigan.

GAME NEWS: Once again, Lake Geneserath yielded a mighty Pike. Donald Cole took a couple of his boys and Richie Gillespie fishing. It was Richie who hooked it and Don helped haul him in. The big Northern measured 47 inches and weighed 21½ pounds. Archie LaFreniere is having it mounted for display, so all doubters can have proof of the catch.

Ralph Rutt cleaned his prize turtle he caught this summer. This big snapper weighed 27 pounds. The biggest he had ever caught.

The trout fishermen will be happy to know that Fox Lake has been restocked again with 1300 legal size Brook Trout, more than replenishing what had been caught during the season. The Fisheries Division of the Conservation Department made the planting two weeks ago.

The Conservation Department announced that ten additional campsites will be added to the State Forest Campground on Beaver Island.

DEER HUNTERS NOTE: Once again plans are being made for the annual Hunter's Banquet. This will be held at the Holy Cross Hall at 6:00 p. m. on the 16th of November. Tickets are \$2.25 for all you can eat. Jack Martin, Chairman hopes to make this the best ever, so plan on eating out on the 16th, boys.

BAKE SALE: On November 16th a bake sale will be held by the Holy Cross Altar Society at the Parrish Hall. The sale will start at 6:00 p.m.

SERVICEMEN: The following new address has been received:

Pvt. Gerald N. LaFreniere US 55769789  
Co. E. 16th Bn. 4th TNG. B. D. E.  
USATC ARMOR  
Fort Knox, Kentucky - 40121

Daniel J. Egbert, who is quite well known on the Island, just got his promotion to Captain in the Strategic Air Command. He's a navigator on a B-52 at Seymour-Johnson AFB in North Carolina. Today he may be over the North Pole; tomorrow on a flight over Beaver Island, as has happened.

Jim Egbert, who pilots a needle-nose F-102 and soon will be at Truax AFB, Madison, Wis., will also be flying over Beaver. He contacted Lt. Col. John G. McCann, who last summer was assigned to Labrador. They had a pleasant visit. Jim has since been reassigned from Goose Bay, Labrador.

COLD WEATHER COMFORT: At the Bazaar held in December by the Holy Cross Altar Society, a drawing will be held for a Quilt made by Elsie O'Donnell of St. James. The Bazaar will be held on December 8th at Holy Cross Hall.

HOSPITAL NOTES: Miss Adelia M. Beeuwkes is a patient at the University Hospital in Ann Arbor. We know she would enjoy hearing from all you Beaver Islanders.

Steve Connahan was a patient in Munson Hospital for a tonsillectomy.

Mr. A. J. Roy is recuperating at his home at 23 Myrtle Drive, Pontiac, Michigan after some time in a Pontiac Hospital.

Garrett Cole is a patient in Charlevoix Hospital for a tonsillectomy.

FLYING BUG NIPS VETERAN PILOT: The following is an article sent to us by Roland J. McCann of Oak Lawn, Ill.

Orland Park Man Finds Traffic No Bother - A veteran Pilot has caught the flying bug. Capt. Louis Meredith, of American Airlines, frequently flies from his home at 13811 S. 82nd Ave., Orland Park to his office at O'Hare International Airport.

He flies the 32 miles to O'Hare in just about 15 minutes, altho some might agree that flying to work is not everyone's cup of tea. When he does take to the air to get to work, Meredith can land or take off from a 1,000 foot long runway strip next to his home. But he usually keeps his plane, a 1955 Cessna 180 aptly named "The 180" at Lockport airport, 15 miles away.

The plane, 15 feet long as compared to a Boeing 707's 153 feet, boasts a complete instrument panel, and extensive radio equipment. Meredith has more than 21,000 hours of flying time.

He has been with American since 1940, and serves as a "check out" pilot instructing other personnel on proper procedure when switching from say, a Boeing 707 to a Convair 990.

Born in Burket, Ind. Meredith became interested in airplanes at an early age. "I took some mechanical courses at the Boeing School in Oakland, Cal." he explained. "I did maintenance work on planes in the hanger next door to the school, and in return got flying time as well as pay." From Oakland he returned to Indiana, where he got first a Commercial, than an instructor's license. He taught flying in Warsaw, Ind., and vicinity.

Because the Cessna can carry fuel for four and one-half hours Meredith and his wife and children like to fly to vacation spots not on an American Airlines route.

"We have a cabin on Beaver Island about 70 miles north of Traverse City, Michigan" said Meredith. "Flying time is 2 hours. In a car it takes 11".

CHARLEVOIX CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HOSTS DINNER: Charlevoix Chamber of Commerce held their 3rd Annual Banquet on the 28th of October. A record showing of 208 persons enjoyed a turkey dinner and renewed acquaintances. A color movie of the Venetian Festival taken by David Banks and shown by Al Beven. The speaker for the evening was James W., or better known as, Young James Gallagher, who told of the history of Beaver Island to the present day. Those attending the affair from the Island Archie and Vernon LaFreniere, Nellie O'Donnell and Mr. and Mrs. Phil Gregg.

NEW BOOK FOR BEAVER ISLAND: Mr. Austin Malloy, 1916 Eastern Ave., S.E., Grand Rapids, Michigan, a former Islander, is writing a book about Beaver Island and its people. Mr. Malloy would appreciate any information you might have pertaining to the Island, that would help him give an accurate account of Beaver Island. You may write to him at the above address.

## BEAVER TALES

When fall passes and the winds are to the North, residents of Beaver Island begin the task of stocking up for the winter to come. Topics of conversation change from "How's the fishing?" to "How much wood are you going to cut?" Isolation is a word that doesn't come up anymore, as Beaver Island now is some different than it was prior to 1926. This marks the year that the word isolation was lost and the first airplane landed at Beaver Island.

April, 1926 - For two months the telephone cable connecting the Island with the mainland had been broken and shifting ice flows had severed the last link, preventing the mail carriers from making the trip across the ice to Cross Village. George W. Weaver, the Postmaster at Charlevoix, was faced with an ever growing pile of mail for the Island. Mr. Weaver decided to make every effort he could to get the mail across. Contacting Senator Woodbridge N. Ferris and Representative F. H. Scott, he asked them if they would use their influence with the Post Office authorities, to get permission to fly the mail across. Officials of Booth Fisheries, who had interests on the Island, explained the situation to Secretary Herbert Hoover. The machinery was in motion now and the wires between Washington and Charlevoix were humming. At last the Post Office Department authorized a plane to be sent from Chicago.

An ex R. A. F. pilot by the name of Joe Donnelan was the pilot chosen. Joe called an old pal, Alvin Yeider of Kalamazoo, a former sergeant in the R. A. F., to act as mechanic on the trip. Any trip in a plane in those days was an adventure and certainly crossing Lake Michigan was a feat only for the strong of heart.

The orders from Washington called for their departure from Chicago at 2 a.m. on Thursday, April 1st. A real grim joke, especially since Chicago was in the grip of a blizzard. With the driven snow stinging their faces, Joe and Alvin climbed into the two seated bi-plane and took off into the darkness and headed out over the lake. Equipped with compass, altimeter and other instruments, they had a general idea which way they were going but didn't know if they could keep from freezing before they got there. The engine wasn't running at its best for the snow melting on its surface kept it too cool and snow blowing in the intake made it cough in rebellion. The two men were so busy determining where they were that the engine seemed secondary, besides, they couldn't do anything about it anyway. Finally deciding they must be over land, they decided to set down. They found themselves just outside Lawton, in the midst of a snow bank. The plane created much excitement for the people of the village and many hands turned to dig the plane out of the snow, but the wind drifted it right back again. It took three days to finally free the plane and on Sunday, the two took to the air again. After two stops at Grand Haven and Cadillac, they arrived at Charlevoix before dark.

The first trip to the Island was made the following afternoon. Capt. John McCann, a resident of the Island, went as guide and 400 pounds of mail as cargo. The trip took 45 minutes compared to the 8 hours to several days that it took two men and a team of horses to do.

The residents of the Island had heard on their radios that the mail was coming and all were eagerly waiting. Evergreens were cut and placed on the ice of the Harbor to mark the spot to land.

"Jackie" a 22 year old horse, who had carried the mail for ten winters, was hitched to a cutter and driven by Joe MaFroe out on the ice to meet the plane.

Soon the plane came into view and the gathering crowd cheered. Jackie had never seen anything like this before and the big winged beast with

its thundering voice was more than his old heart could bear. Jackie slumped to the ice and died, thus ending one era and beginning another. Air transportation to the Island is common place now. Perhaps the only drawback is the cost which is a little more than twice the fare on the boat, but in 1926 the fare was \$30.00 one way and \$50.00 for a round trip. The plane, well, it was sorta like a kite with a motor on it.

**BUILDINGS UNDERWAY:** In the last issue we mentioned buildings that were in the serious planning stage. This month, these buildings are well on their way up. Perry Crawford, of Rochester, Michigan, is constructing a new ten unit Motel with living quarters above. This will be open for business June 1st, 1964. It is to be called the Erin Motel and it is located on the harbor across from the old general store.

Walt Wojan has started his project of doubling the size of their Harbor View Motel, adding four housekeeping units.

The first A-Frame cabin sprung from the ground like a mushroom last month. Owned by Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Lloyd of East Lansing and built by Walt Wojan, we feel this will be a popular type of building in the near future.

Along side the A-Frame on the back Beach Road, Mr. and Mrs. Curley Hartsell of Kalamazoo, are well on their way of completing their cabin.

**SCHOOL NEWS:** Honor Roll for the first period of the new school year.

Grade 3	Richard Gillespie - Joan LaFreniere
Grade 6	Angie Wojan
Grade 7	Judy LaFreniere - Ronney Wojan
Grade 8	Sara Kenwabikise - Joe McDonough - Roberta Palmer
Grade 9	Jeanne Wojan
Grade 11	Edward Wojan

On Wednesday, Oct. 30, the biology class of Beaver Island High School was treated to a wonderful field trip through the kindness of our well informed Conservation Officer, Mr. Vernon Fitzpatrick. The thorough explanations of wild life on the Island and the activity of the students in collecting frogs, salamanders, ants and plants of interest made this a very worth while trip.

A Halloween Party in Holy Cross Hall sponsored by the Beaver Island Civic Association under the able leadership of Mrs. Jack Martin was given for the Beaver Island Children. Mary DeVogel and Angela Wojan were awarded first prize for the originality of their "Two-Headed Monster" costume. Kathie Gillespie costumed as a Dominican Sister and Michael Martin as a hobo, also won prizes. The movie Young Daniel Boone, was shown and refreshments served.

The children wish to express their thanks to the Civic Association for providing the prizes, movie and refreshments for their party.

**American Education Week:** The week of November 10 to 16 is American Education Week. The theme "Education Strengthens the Nation" is particularly appropriate, since the students of today are the citizens of tomorrow.

In conjunction with American Education Week open hours will be held at Beaver Island School on Tuesday and Wednesday, Nov. 12 & 13 from 8:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Parents are invited to visit the school at any time during these two days to see their children "in action".

BIRTHS: David Gerard was born on October 12th to Ed and Mary Margaret Breden of Glenview, Ill. Mrs. Mary Greene of St. James is his grandmother

Mr. and Mrs. Terry Brown announce the birth of twins - Terrence John and Kelly Marie - born October 25th. The grandparents are Francis and Stella Brown.

Mr. and Mrs. Larry Born have a son Vincent John born on October 31st. Dorothy (Malloy) and Art Ryan are the grandparents.

October 27th is the date of the arrival of Mary Rose Doig. Mrs. Doig is the former Grace Gatliff, and Mary Gatliff is the proud grandmother. Mr. & Mrs. Doig reside at 7951 So. True, Chicago, Ill.

QUACK - QUACK - QUACK: Remember those nice fat ducks at the Yacht Dock? The Altar Society of the Holy Cross Church are offering them as prizes at a Feather Party to be held on the 23rd of November at 8:00 p.m. at the Parrish Hall. The ducks were donated by Eileen & Jack Martin, Archie LaFroniere and Vernon Fitzpatrick. Also, part of the evenings entertainment will be a 20 to 25 lb. Turkey given away at a drawing for someone's Thanksgiving Dinner.

OBITUARIES: Jill Marie Neiser, the four month old daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Robert Neiser of Muskegon died at her home on the morning of Oct. 25th. The great-grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. James O'Donnell of St. James.

THANK YOU: The Beaver Beacon Staff wishes to thank all of you readers who have taken the time to send us news to be used in the Beacon. We really appreciate it and do keep up the good work.

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BEAVER ISLAND CIVIC ASSOCIATION

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