

The Beaver Beacon



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

September 1961

WEATHER: Thanks to Vernon Fitzpatrick, our resident Conservation Officer, we are going to give you complete and accurate weather from Beaver Island. Vernon makes these reports for the Weather Bureau in St. Louis and has offered to give us a report similar to the following each month for our Beacon readers.

The hottest day in August was the 31st at 85 degrees. We had four nights, the 7th, 21st, and 22nd as the coolest at 49 degrees. Our rainfall for the month was .57" falling on 8 separate days. Our average daytime temperature for the month was 76 degrees. Our average nighttime temperature for the month was 55 degrees.

It has been a good month for swimmers, but we needed a little more rainfall for the corn and tomatoes!

HOW QUICKLY SUMMER ENDS: August Homecoming Day found many relatives and friends paying their last visit to Beaver Island for the season. A drive around the Island after Labor Day shows many cabins closed. There are fewer cars, fewer people on the streets. The Emerald Isle ferry was crowded on its last "two trips a day" run. In some areas the leaves have begun to turn announcing the advent of Fall. The days are sharp and clear; the nights crisp and cool. And so Beaver Island settles back quietly after a busy summer season.

WILD TURKEYS ARRIVE: On August 31st, the Conservation Department delivered the first wild turkeys on Beaver Island. Two adult females and six young birds were trapped at the Swan Creek Wildlife Experiment Station the evening prior to delivery to the Island, but the adult birds died, probably from asphyxiation, before being placed on the airplane. The weight of the birds ranged from 2 lbs. 10 oz. to 3 lbs. 13 oz. There were four females and two males. The six young birds appeared to be healthy, and had the two adults lived, the release would have been a good one from a family-group standpoint. As it is now, the young will not have the benefit of adult leadership. However, the Department feels they should be able to acclimate themselves to Island conditions without too much difficulty.

The birds were released at the Angeline Bluff area, and attracted a large crowd. Upon their release from the burlap sacks, they flew strongly, some of them perching momentarily in trees, giving photographers excellent opportunities for picture taking.

Many of us are not familiar with the habits of wild turkeys, so with the help of the Conservation Department, we have learned something of their characteristics to pass on to our readers. There is a marked likeness in general appearance between the wild and domestic bronze turkey, but the hunter should know the difference if he doesn't wish to be embarrassed by shooting one from a farmer's flock!

The wild turnkey should have a smaller head than the domestic turkey, the legs are slender and small-boned compared to the shorter, meatier legs of the domestic, and the breast is more streamlined while the domestic has a full-rounded breast. The tail feathers of the domestic are tipped with white, while the wild bird's tail is tipped with a cinnamon brown color. The feathers of the wild bird in sunlight have a metallic irridescence which is always lacking in the barnyard bird, but in the shade, the wild bird will appear to be almost black, as its general coloring is much darker than its counterpart.

The birds are excellent fliers, and have been clocked at over 55 miles per hour. Much to our surprise, we found they can also swim, and will do so to escape a hunter.

The wild turkey's nest is located near or in forest openings on the ground, since the young birds feed mainly on insects and green foliage. The nest itself is most often under a low growing evergreen, fallen tree, etc. It is a crude affair, being formed only by the weight of the hen's body as she wiggles her breast into leaf or grass litter. It measures about 8 x 10 inches. The average nest will contain about thirteen eggs, white to pale buff in color, somewhat larger than a chicken egg, but wider and not so long. Incubation requires 28 days. Hatching success is either 100 percent or zero.

The birds eat a large variety of foods - acorns, beech nuts, weed seeds, grass, and insects. They will also look for crayfish in streams. At any season, the wild turkey is adaptable. It can survive deep snows and serious droughts by adjusting to new foods. In winter, turkeys will be found where the deer feed, for while they can scratch through three or four inches of snow, the deer will dig right to the ground, and the turkeys will often be found feeding right along with the deer.

Present plans are to bring more turkeys to the Island, increasing the released flock to thirty birds, so I guess we will have to stop kidding the Conservation Department. It will, of course, be quite some time before a season will be opened on wild turkeys, but at least we have a start on a new interest for Beaver Island Bird Hunters.

SHERLOCK HOLMES TO THE RESCUE: As many of you may know, Fred Annand has been raising two white domestic turkeys this summer. George Donat, who was staying at the Annand farm arose one warm, sunny day in August to check the birds in Fred's absence. To his horror he found the beautiful white hen missing. Angry and concerned, he called in our sheriff, Karl Kuebler, certain that the hen had been stolen and fearful that she already was gracing someone's table. Karl arrived, checked the situation, but could find no evidence of thievery. Wondering off alone to think, he came upon the happy hen, cheerfully sitting on a nest of eggs!

SOCIAL NOTES: Mr. and Mrs. C. Fogg invited all the Islanders and friends to help christen their new dock across from McDonough's store. Sandwiches and refreshments (both very delicious!) were served and the dock has now become a very permanent part of Beaver!

Owen Boyle and Bussy LaFreniere had 23 watermelons delivered to the Island, each of them weighing approximately 20 lbs. They explicitly directed that the watermelons were for the little kids only, adults to keep hands off. The melons were served at three separate ball games. It was a peculiar sight to see grown-ups calling their little ones aside and whispering in their ear. Shortly thereafter, some little tot would come strolling up to Mom and Dad with a huge piece of melon, which the folks ate quickly before any one could catch them at it.

On Wednesday, September 6 a buffet dinner was held at Beaver Lodge for Dr. F. E. Luton and Dr. Sydney S. Schochet, the new Island doctor. Approximately 50 guests attended the affair welcoming Dr. Schochet and congratulating Dr. Luton on his long and successful career.

HOSPITAL NOTES: Little Gerald Connaghan, son of Rose and Jack Connaghan accidentally opened the door of his mother's car while she was driving home and fell to the road. He was rushed to the Medical Center where Dr. Luton immediately felt he needed hospitalization. Don Hanson, an Island visitor, flew the little fellow to Charlevoix where it was discovered he had a double skull fracture. After a stay of several days in Charlevoix Hospital, Gerald is home and doing well.

BIRTH: Mr. and Mrs. Donald Cole of St. James announce the birth of a baby boy on August 29th at the Beaver Island Medical Center. The baby has been named Thomas Michael. It was the last baby delivered by Dr. Frank Luton before his retirement.

DEATHS: The Island has just received word of the death of Martin W. Amoss, summer resident of Beaver for many years. He passed away on June 6th at Munster Indiana. His widow, Mrs. Bess F. Amoss lives at 8238 Northcote Ave., Munster. Mr. Amoss was in charge of the railroad yards for the entire New York Central system when he retired in 1958.

Mrs. Tony Wojan passed away at Charlevoix on August 16th after an extended illness. She was the mother of Walter Wojan of St. James. Other survivors include her husband, four other sons and five daughters.

Mrs. Russell Palmer, wife of Dr. Russell Palmer, former Beaver Island physician, died at Lansing after a long illness.

Daniel E. (Eddie) Gillespie was accidentally drowned August 25th at Lorain, Ohio while attempting to board his boat. He is believed to have lost his footing on a gangplank. He was reared on Beaver Island.

MANY THANKS: to L. T. Rountree, to George H. Chase, and to Karl Kuebler for their donations to our Park Fund. Further information on the construction and improvements to the park will be given in the October Beacon.

SAND IN THEIR SHOES: Two lots in Wicklow Beach were sold to Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Laug of Grand Rapids. Here is part of a letter Mrs. Laug wrote after her visit to the Island in August: "This talk about it being 'so nice' to have a vacation but it's so good to get home again' certainly did not hold true for us. Already we miss the Island and have begun to mark off the days until we can return..... Now when a place can stir the hearts of our whole family as Beaver Island has done, we feel that we would so much like to have a little part of that land to call our own". Mr. and Mrs. Laug have two youngsters, Robert and Cathy.

Other new property owners are Mr. Gabriel Campbell of Howell, Michigan who has purchased the Francis Mooney farm and Mr. and Mrs. Richard Guarino of Ann Arbor who have purchased property in Sand Bay.

RETIREMENT: Bert J. McDonough of St. James has retired from the lighthouse service after 33½ years. He joined the service in 1936 with his first assignment in South Chicago. He was then assigned to the crew of the Beaver Head light station. When that station became automatic in 1958 Bert was retained as caretaker until his retirement. At an informal ceremony held at the Coast Guard Group Office in Charlevoix, Bert was also presented with the Albert Gallatin award in recognition of his many years of service.

PATIENCE AND PERSEVERANCE: That's what it took for Dr. and Mrs. Sorenson to complete their walk around the Island. They started to walk the entire shore of Beaver in 1953, doing a few miles each year. Kay wore the same pair of shoes for the entire project. They were accompanied on different occasions by guests from California, Indiana and Michigan. It took them a total of 16 good, long hours. They found many items of interest including three bottles thrown in the lake by fishing hatcheries in Ann Arbor. These bottles are used to test the water currents in the lake. Dr. Sorensen said the most difficult area was French Bay to Iron Ore Bay, and easiest was the Sand Bay area. While they found it interesting, they both admit they have no plans to repeat the adventure. Incidentally, Kay's shoes have now been retired!

Another young lad, Tom Chmura of Chicago also biked around the Island completing the trip in 13½ hours. He began at LaFreniere's Motel at 4:00 A.M. and returned at 5.30 P.M. the same day last month.

CHURCH NEWS. Work on the Parish Hall is almost completed. Walt Wojan and his crew have done an excellent and speedy job of repairing the damages done by fire on Dawn Patrol Day. The Hall kitchen is now eight feet wider, with good lighting.

Plans for the construction of a new Episcopal Mission Church are going ahead. Services this summer have found the old building filled to capacity, making the need for a larger church apparent. The new church will be a log cabin type with a log cabin rectory and will be constructed on three lots opposite the Township cemetery. Cost of the work is being underwritten largely by contributions from members and visitors.

A group of Strangite Mormons made a pilgrimage to Beaver Island to visit the old Mormon sites, including Font Lake, and to see the Mormon items in the museum. They were from Burlington, Wisconsin (Strang's "Vorce").

WEDDING BELLS

ATCHISON-DAVIS: On August 12, at 7:30 P.M., Miss Grace Atchison of Harrisville, Michigan became the bride of Charles Davis of Harrison, Michigan at the Episcopal Mission Church of Beaver Island with Rev. Lyman Howard officiating. The young couple were the first to be married from the Episcopal Church and it was the first Protestant wedding to be performed on Beaver Island since the time of the Mormons.

The bride chose for her wedding costume, a Nile green suit with white accessories and carried sweetheart roses. Joan Davis, her sister-in-law served as matron of honor. Don Davis, brother of the groom served as best man.

Mr. and Mrs. Davis are making their home on Beaver Island, as Mr. Davis is employed by the McClure Drilling Company.

MARTIN-DELIA: With a background of white and red gladioli on the altar, Miss Sally Irene Martin became the bride of Michael Delia at a beautiful fall wedding on September 2nd. The Nuptial High Mass was solemnized at 10:00 A.M. at Holy Cross Catholic Church, Father Lewis Wren officiating.

The bride, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Martin of St. James was given in marriage by her father. She was lovely in a floor length white satin and nylon net gown and a finger tip veil with a crown of satin and seeded pearls. She carried a bouquet of white carnations accented with red velvet hearts.

Her attendants were her sister, Marjorie Armstrong as matron of honor and her cousin, Karen Pischner as bridesmaid. Both were dressed in street length cherry red chantilly lace over cherry red satin and carried white carnations.

The groom is the son of Mrs. George Cordts and the late Mr. Pete Delia of Fremont, Michigan and was attended by his brother-in-law, Bob White as best man, and his brother, John Delia. Ushers were Tony and Larry McDonough and Billy and Erwin Martin.

A buffet dinner reception for 250 guests was held at the bride's home and a wedding dance took place in the evening at the Parish Hall.

Mr. and Mrs. Delia will be at home in Fremont, Michigan.

BEAVER ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY. The Annual Meeting of the Historical Society was held at the Museum on August 26th for the purpose of electing new officers. Those elected to the Board of Trustees are as follows: A. J. Roy, President; Archie LaFreniere, Vice President; Mary Minor, Secretary-Treasurer, with Jewell Gillespie and Burdene Stromberg completing the five-member board.

At this meeting, it was decided to hold an Ice Cream Social and Open House on October 15th from 2:30 to 5:30 P.M. If the weather is warm, the Social will be held outdoors; if chilly, in the Museum. Ice Cream and Cake will be 50¢. Admission to the Museum is free. Memberships in the Society will be taken on this day. If you wish to become a member contact any of the trustees. They will be happy to take your membership.

Mr. A. J. Roy reports that they have been given a hand made wash stand made by Pat Bonner's grandfather, and a cane belonging to Dr. Protar. Pat and Rose have contributed many items to the museum and the Board is very grateful.

Tom Walsh gave the museum an old muzzle-loading shot gun belonging to the Mormons along with a small Mormon hand mirror dated 1862. He also presented a Civil War musket and numerous very old books and documents.

Mr. and Mrs. Art Larson started our old-fashioned kitchen by donating an old wooden coffee mill, and an iron kettle. They also gave some record books of the Coast Guard from 1883, one of them describing wrecks of ships in and around Beaver. Some of the later books were signed by Ward Bennett who is remembered by many on the Island.

Our sincere thanks to all those who continue their interest in the Historical Society. It is only through these contributions that we are enabled to carry on the work of preserving the history of Beaver Island.

MC CLURE OIL COMPANY: Those McClure boys are a persistent group! They're still drilling in that same old hole! They are now down to 4912 feet and have not as yet reached granite. Mr. Phil Hurry, geologist for McClure says the drilling is being continued to study the geological formations on Beaver in preparation for the new drilling site which is located near the saw mill. Equipment arrived on the Island via the Mackinac Islander for taking pictures of the interior of the area already drilled, but this information is not available for publication. While they no longer feel that oil will be obtained at the present site, this information received and the results of further drilling will aid them in their future planning.

SCHOOL NEWS: If you saw groups of youngsters with shining but down-cast faces on September 5th, you knew that summer was at an end and school had begun. Sister Ida reports 53 youngsters in Grade School and 13 in High School, but if the kids had their way, those numbers would be much smaller.

CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT NEWS: Mr. John Ozaga, Conservation Department Biologist spending the past several months on the Island, began a biological research on predator type animals here last year. He has been kind enough to give us a report on his findings for two years.

Since coyote hunts have been one of the popular sports on the Island, we thought you might be interested in his findings of the coyote and fox population. Records have been kept since 1947 and show the following: In the past 24 years, 21 coyotes have been killed by deer hunters, 38 by coyote hunters, and 78 have been trapped, bring the total to 137.

Mr. Ozaga informed us that in 214 miles of hiking from January through March in 1961, he has attempted to learn just how destructive are the coyote and fox. He found one deer killed by a coyote as compared to

eight losses from deer season. He found two snowshoe rabbits killed by coyotes and nine with reason for death uncertain. Of nine dead grouse discovered, one was killed by a predatory bird, one by a fox, and one by a coyote, and six with cause of death uncertain. Mr. Ozaga believes from his studies that the coyote and fox population are now very low on the Island and no longer a cause for alarm to bird, deer and rabbit hunters.

In his hikes throughout the length and breadth of the Island, he has found that the grouse population is exceptionally high this year and should offer some excellent hunting. The season on "Pats" opens October 1st and runs to November 10th. John counted 233 birds in 29 broods as compared to three broods last year. So oil up your shot guns, fellows. You should have good luck.

While the deer herd is believed to be in good condition, there is some feeling that it is somewhat lower in number than last year. Therefore, Vernon Fitzpatrick has officially announced a "Bucks Only" season on the Island this year. While this may be a disappointment to some deer hunters, the Department thought it wise to build up the herd before reinstating the "Any Deer" laws.

*****CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING*****

FOR SALE:

Leonard automatic electric four burner gas range in good condition. Price: \$75.00. Call Eva McDonough at 448-5533.

A little work, a little play
To keep us going - and so good-day!
A little warmth, a little light
Of love's bestowing - and so good-night!
A little fun to match the sorrow
Of each day's growing - and so, good-morrow!
A little trust that when we die
We reap our sowing! and So - Good-bye!

George Du Maurier

And so - Good-bye!

See you next month!