

The Beaver Beacon



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

September 1963

The curtain has come down on the last act of the 1963 summer season, and absolute tranquility once more reigns over the Island. Those who spent any part of August on the Island will readily agree that it was the busiest they had ever seen. The weather, for the most part was cooperative, with the exception of Labor Day, when the season was ushered out with cold wind and rain.

SPEAKING OF WEATHER: The following is an analysis of our August weather as reported by Vernon Fitzpatrick.

Highest Day	August 21	82 degrees
Average Daytime Temperature		69 degrees
Lowest Night	August 18	42 degrees
Average Nighttime Temperature		56 degrees

Rain fell on 8 days.

The heaviest rainfall was on August 12th with 2.06 inches.

Total rainfall was 3.79 inches.

HOMECOMING CELEBRATION: August 11th dawned a beautiful sunny day for the Homecoming on Beaver Island. At noon, a delicious dinner was served to nearly 400 people, after which the annual parade was held. Many interesting floats appeared in the parade, and the climax of the afternoon entertainment was a group of sky divers performing over St. James Harbor. In the evening a dance was held at the Parish Hall with music by Ray Miller and his band.

Jo Ellen Grossel, 20603 Elkhart, Harper Woods 36, Michigan was the winner of the 11" Dominion Fry Pan donated by Dr. N. P. Sorensen.

Dolores Pischner, 905 Bridge, Charlevoix, Michigan was the winner of the Hand Made Quilt donated by Dr. F. E. Luton.

A wonderful time was had by one and all, and next year we hope that every one of you reading the Beacon will come and join the celebration.

CANVAS CITY NEWS: The State Forest Campground at Big Sand Bay enjoyed the biggest season of all this year and definitely shows a need for expansion. Vern Fitzpatrick gives us this final report, covering the use of the campground from Decoration Day to Labor Day. 72 camps were registered to Michigan residents, with 461 campers. 23 camps were registered to non-residents with 105 campers. This makes a grand total of 95 camps and 566 campers. The largest camp was 29 (Boy Scouts), and the smallest camp was 1. The lure of the Island extended all the way to Kansas, and Indiana had the largest number of non-residents camps, with a total of

10. Most family camps numbered five people and they made an average stay of six days. This report doesn't include people that used the facilities by the day, for swimming, picnics, etc.

FISHERMAN'S LUCK: Again, we report that the fishing has been excellent this season and is still holding it's own. Of course, whenever fishing is mentioned the end result is usually a story or two, and this month is no exception. A short while ago, Rogers Carlisle and some friends made a trip to Garden Island for a day's bass fishing. All was going well and the fish were biting, but one particular spot, a good distance from their boat, was the target Rogers wanted to hit with a cast. With a practiced whip of his rod the bait soared for the spot. At this precise time a tern flew between the angler and the bait and snarled itself in the line. Instead of a bass, a tern was landed and showed it's resentment by taking a healthy peck at the hand that was desperately trying to release it. Rogers may have come across a new type of sport, which could be called "bird casting".

Dr. Haynes tried his hand at trout fishing out at Fox Lake a couple of week's ago and was rather startled when he reeled in his line and discovered he had hooked a rather large water snake. He developed a very rapid way of releasing unwanted game - he cut the line!

During the last week in August a group of six fishermen made six trips to Garden Island and took 143 bass. That's good fishing.

The big pike (23½ lbs.) that Walt Wojan caught earlier this summer, has been mounted, and is on display at McDonough's Store.

BIRTHS: Mr. and Mrs. Bill Martin of Hastings announce the birth of a son, Jimmy. Mrs. Ada Martin of St. James is Jimmy's grandmother.

Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Greene of Ludington announce the birth of a son, Daniel Joseph, on August 22. Mrs. Mary Greene is the paternal grandmother.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Hammermiester of Chicago announce the birth of a son Kurt Patrick on August 13. Mrs. Hammermiester is the former Sally Cull, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Mike Cull.

ENGAGED: Mr. and Mrs. John Martin announce the engagement of their daughter, Patricia Jean to Q.M.1/c Andrew J. Gallagher. The prospective bridegroom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John A. Gallagher. He is serving with the U.S. Coast Guard and is stationed in New York. A November wedding at Holy Cross Church on Beaver Island is being planned by the couple.

SERVICES MARK DEDICATION OF ST. JAMES CHURCH: The new Episcopal Chapel to be known as St. James Church, was dedicated at a special service held at 10 a.m. Sunday, September 1st.

The Right Rev. Charles E. Bonnison, Bishop of the Diocese of Western Michigan, conducted the service at which the Episcopal missionaries realized the fulfillment of a part of their building program. Assisting was the Rev. Kenneth Okkerse of Allegan who is vacationing on the Island. The summer mission was organized in 1954 and is the only non Roman Catholic Church on the Island. Until now services have been held in one of the older homes. Future building plans call for the construction of a cottage for vacationing Episcopal clergy conducting the services at the mission.

The construction of the log chapel, built to accommodate a seating cap-

acity of more than 100 people, was made possible for the missionaries through the assistance of a contribution by the diocesan building fund. The Rev. Alexander Wood, vicar of the Christ Church Mission in Charlevoix has been named to serve as priest-in-charge of Beaver Island's St. James Mission.

A LETTER OF INTEREST: Every so often we receive letters from our readers, sending us items to put into the Beacon or perhaps just to drop a friendly note. This month we received a letter we felt should be shared with the subscribers, so will print it as it came to us.

"Sometime in 1916 we won a lot as a prize in a grocery store contest. The deed was delivered to us by a salesman for the Citizen's Realty Company, who prevailed upon us to buy 2 more lots from a map which he showed us.

I arrived here in April, 1917 on the steamer, Columbia, and by appointment with George Carter, of the Citizen's Realty Company, met him at Nqmad. He could not show me exactly where my lots were, but agreed to exchange them for two lots on the shore on Cables Bay.

At that time the Realty Company had built a hotel and a dock just south of Cables Creek.

I made a contract with the Lumber Company to build two cabins for us while they were finishing the Hotel.

A few weeks later we came here on the Kansas, which also brought our furniture, and landed it at the Hotel dock. We stayed here the summer of 1917 and made the acquaintance of many of the old timers on the Island. The Coles were our nearest neighbors. Dominic Gallagher, at the Beaver Head light, was the nearest in the other direction. From St. James to the head was a long journey. We could travel by boat, which took about as long then as the mail boat takes now, from Charlevoix to St. James. The other way was by horse or ox-team wagon through the woods and sometimes along the shore, which was about 3 hours trip.

We have many fond recollections of many of the Islanders who have passed over to the other shore. Nels LaFreniere, who visited us in Chicago, the O'Donnells, who drove up to our end with fresh meat and other farm products; "Gat" and Julie Cole, who were frequent visitors at our house in Chicago; the McCanns, who had a general store and dock; Lawrence Malloy, who had a butcher store; Dr. Braunch and Father Fewell; Tommy Boyle (Hannegan), Shoemaker Gallagher and many others.

There were, also, the Hills, father and son (no relation), Captain and engineer of the ill fated Marold, as well as Everett and Raymond Cole, all victims of that New Years Day tragedy. There is also nostalgic memories of the numerous fishing nets, and the many fishing boats constantly coming and going. There were the warehouses of the C. C. Robbins and the Booth Company.

Closer to us "Gat" Cole had his sawmill and shingle mill. There was a Sawyer there by the name of Spade, who lived in Charlevoix. One of his sons and a daughter are still living in Charlevoix. We remember as old friends, Dave and Delia Wilson, who had later a farm on "Kings Highway". Of the resorters whom we knew so well, there were Dr. Bicke, John J. Colburn & family, the McKnights, the Ray's, Hugh & Lottie. There were some few on the South Arm whose names I do not recall.

We have spent winters in Arizona and California, summers in France, Switzerland, Italy and Austria, all of it very charming. We were in attendance at an audience with His Holiness Pious XII and received his blessing. With all this and after 46 years, Beaver Island is still distinctly charm-

ing and has an enchantment all it's own. Beaver Island Go Braugh, and after 46 years we feel rather alone after the passing of so many of the old time crowd."

Anna and Ira Hill
9618 Lawler Avenue
Skokie, Illinois

REMINISCING VISIT: Shortly after receiving the afore mentioned letter, we were paid a visit by Albert E. Stephens, who returned to the Island after 45 years. His parents, George A. and Jennie E. Stephens, came to Beaver Island from New York and homesteaded at what was and is known as the Valley Farm, behind Font Lake. His father was a cooper, a common trade during the early fishing days, when there was much demand for wooden barrels. George Stephens was a brother to Mrs. Clarence Bissell, who lived at Gull Harbor, here on the Island.

OBITUARIES: Word has been received of the death of Engle (Bing) Jensen, 61, on July 16, 1963 in St. Charles, Ill. He is survived by his widow, the former Caroline Cole of Beaver Island.

BEAVER ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY: As President of the Beaver Island Historical Society, I wish to thank all of our members and friends for making our annual project a success.

Also, I wish to thank my officers for assuming my responsibilities when I was taken ill.

The cooperation of all has made this year for the Historical Society an outstanding one. There will be a report on the Society's finances later.

A. J. Roy, President
Beaver Island Historical Society

The winner of the Television Set was Walter Wojan of St. James.

GOLDEN WEDDINGS: On August 14th Mr. and Mrs. Mike Cull of St. James, celebrated their golden wedding anniversary. Mabel and Mike renewed their vows at a Mass celebrated at Holy Cross Church, and open house was held at the Parish Hall between 4 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Among those who came to attend the celebration were their sons and daughters-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Cull and family of Bay City, Mr. and Mrs. Larry Cull and family of Chicago; their son Rolland Cull, specialist fourth class and Jack Cull; their daughter, Mrs. B. Lockton and family; Mr. and Mrs. Charles Teeter of Chicago; Mr. and Mrs. John Petrenard; Mr. and Mrs. Peter O. Gallagher and their grandson Peter Phillips; Mr. Erwin Belfy; Mrs. Myrtle Ditlefson; Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence McDonough of Charlevoix and Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Swanson of Pontiac.

Others who came were her niece Mr. and Mrs. Phil (Florence Lee) Blake and their son, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Blake and family all of Grand Rapids and Mrs. Dolores Pischner of Charlevoix. Also, Mr. and Mrs. Mickey Malloy of Chicago.

Mr. and Mrs. Mike Cull wish to say thank you to one and all.

Mr. and Mrs. Peter O. Gallagher celebrated their golden wedding anniversary on Saturday August 24th.

The couple renewed their marriage vows at a Mass held at St. Mary's Church Charlevoix, at 11 a.m., August 24. An open house from 2 to 6 was held at the Charlevoix Rod and Gun Club.

Joining in the observance was their daughter, Mrs. Ivan (Helen) Phillips,

and their two sons, James W. Gallagher, who is stationed aboard the U. S. Coast Guard Cutter, Sundew, and Danford D. Gallagher, all of Charlevoix. Mr. Gallagher was born on Beaver Island, March 23, 1885 and Mrs. Gallagher, the former Vivian Roddy, moved to Beaver Island with her family at the age of two years.

Mr. and Mrs. Gallagher have made their home in Charlevoix for the past 32 years.

WEDDINGS: Mr. and Mrs. George Nelson Pike were married August 17th at Christ the Good Shepard Church in Lincoln Park. The bride is the former Judith Carol Turcott, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Turcott of Lincoln Park. Mr. Pike is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John David Pike of Montague. Given in marriage by her father, the bride chose a floor length gown of silk organza fashioned with a scoop neckline, elbow length sleeves and a full skirt featuring a bow at the waist and appliqued with pearls. A crown secured her finger-tip veil. She carried a bouquet of orchids, phalenopsis and ivy strung with pearls. Barbara Turcott was the honor attendant and Mrs. Patricia Poirier and Mary Kapostkas were bridesmaids. They wore identical floor length gowns of mint green organdy, matching accessories and carried bouquets of mums and carnations.

Thomas Thinner assisted the bridegroom as best man. Max Puffpaff and Charles Townsend were groomsmen and John Pike, Francis Pike and James Turcott seated the guests.

A reception for 200 guests followed at the Purple Heart Memorial Hall in Wyandotte.

Both are graduates of Western Michigan College. They will make their home in Mona Shores near Muskegon where Mr. Pike had accepted a teaching position.

SERVICEMEN AND WOMEN: Robert Palmer who has been in the United States Army for the past three years, is home with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Palmer. Robert is now working for the Charlevoix County Road Commission on Beaver Island.

The following new addresses have been received:

SP-4 Joseph W. LaFreniere - RA 13710321
36 Evac. Hosp.
Fort George G. Mead, Maryland

PFC Isabelle G. LaFreniere - WA 8521709
Dental Detachment
U.S.A. Garrison
Fort Jackson, South Carolina

INJURED: Eugene Mooney of Livonia was seriously injured when he fell 20 feet on the cement and broke his back and suffered a fractured skull and other injuries. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Francis Mooney, formerly of Beaver Island, and is married and has three children.

CENTENNIAL FARM: Beaver Island holds the distinction of having the only Centennial Farm in Charlevoix County this year.

Over one hundred and six years ago, a fisherman by the name of John Bonner, who was working his boat out of Mackinaw, discovered the fine trout grounds off Gull Island, an area later referred to as the "basin". He built a shack on the Island and used this as a point of operation until

he had a full load to take back to Mackinaw. This was the time of Strang's rule, and entering the harbor of St. James was not a safe gesture for an Irish fisherman. In June of 1856, after a successful period of fishing, they were preparing to set sail for Mackinaw, when across the water, toward them came an Indian canoe. Upon reaching them, the Indian brought word that the "Big Man" of Beaver Island had been shot. Upon learning this, John decided to take his vessel into St. James, where he met no hostility.

Just one year later, John Bonner purchased 80 acres of land on Beaver Island from James & Nancy Farrell, who had been under the rule of Strang. The price agreed upon was \$200.00. With residence established on the Island, he was close to his fishing grounds, and the land was tilled for crops. John and his young wife, Sophia, raised a family of six boys and two girls; the youngest being Patrick, who was born in September of 1882. Pat and his wife, Rosie, built their home on the farm and of course, are still residing there, thus establishing a continual residence and utilizing the land for over a century.

CLASSIFIED

FOR SALE: Christmas Wreaths - made from cedar, balsam and pine. \$3.25 plus shipping for 10 inch size. Please order early. Mrs. Vernon Fitzpatrick, St. James, Michigan.

FOR SALE OR RENT: 6 room house on Harbor. Lot 100' by 440'. Comptly. furn. inc. linens, G.e. Refrig. with large freezer. Semi-bas't. Contact Mrs. Walter Lyons, 7523 S. Winchester Ave., Chicago 20, Ill. Telephone Radcliffe 3-4536.

FOR SALE: Six room house on the harbor - opposite the power plant. Two large lots. If interested contact Norbert Gallagher, 920 Jackson Blvd., Rochester, Indiana.

FOR SALE: Year round, 7 room furnished home on Beaver Island. Large lot, attached garage, automatic heat. For interview call or write Dr. F. E. Luton, St. James - 448-5818.

NOTICE: We have had a request for the complete file of old issues of the Beaver Beacon. If anyone has a complete file and would like to sell it, please contact Mr. Fitzpatrick at the address listed below:

Oldsmobile Division, C.M.C.
Doyle C. Fitzpatrick
Art & Chart Dept., Bldg. 28
Lansing 21, Michigan

REMEMBER: THE BEAVER ISLANDER WILL RUN EVERY DAY INCLUDING SUNDAY FROM SEPTEMBER 3 THRU SEPTEMBER 22, LEAVING CHARLEVOIX AT 9:00 a.m. AND WILL LEAVE BEAVER ISLAND AT 2:30 p.m. HOW ABOUT VISITING US THIS MONTH?