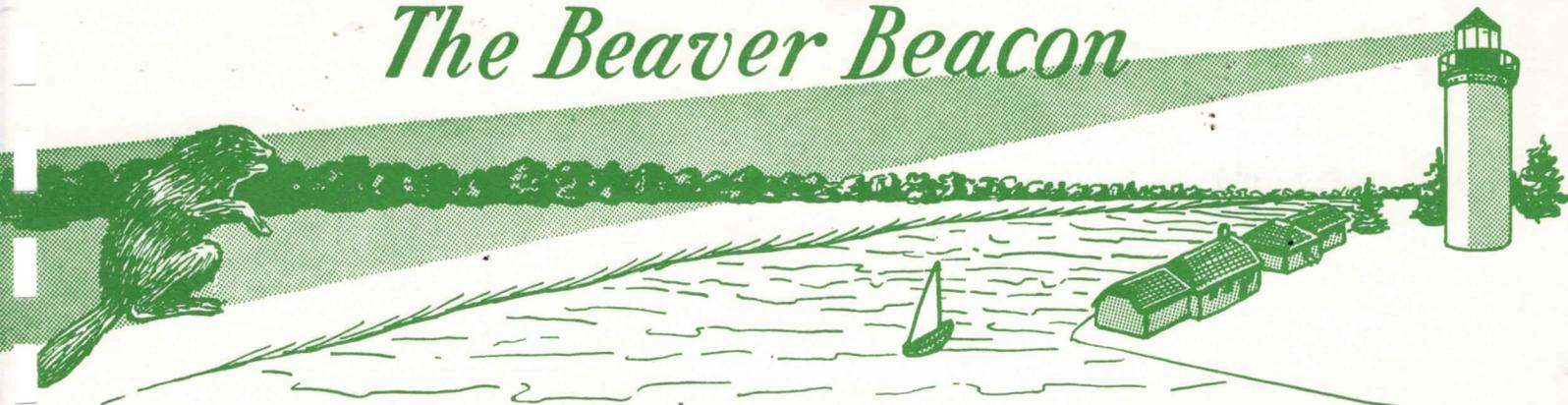


The Beaver Beacon



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

February 1966

Mid-winter on Beaver Island finds no extremes, either in temperatures or snow depth. Conditions have remained ideal for rabbit hunting, ice skating, and now for the first time in several years, ice fishing in the harbor is showing promise. Island winters are anything but monotonous to anyone who enjoys getting out and doing things.

GAME NEWS: Being a comparatively mild winter has been a real break to the island game. The deer have been able to range out from their yarding areas for food. This helps to take the pressure off of the yards, which are beginning to show signs of over browsing. Turkeys are still being seen in various areas including right in town. Olive Dillingham witnessed a hawk attacking a young turkey, and rescued it. However, the turkey died shortly afterwards. How many meet their fate to predators isn't known, of course, but it is doubtful that a hawk would tackle a full grown turkey.

It has been a long time since we have had any disappointed rabbit hunters for there seems to be an unlimited number of rabbits on the Island. It has been at least seven years since any amount of perch have been taken from the harbor, through the ice, but perhaps this year marks their return. Perry Gatliff, Ronnie Wojan, Dennis Wagner, Duane Newstead and several others have all proven that they are back. This doesn't mean you are guaranteed a stringer full each time, but the promise looks good. With this first showing, the harbor was soon scattered with shanties to the present count of fifteen. High hopes of the "good old days" of fishing are ever present.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARTIES: Again St. Patrick's Day is fast approaching and a MUST for everyone is the annual St. Patrick's Day parties in Chicago and Lansing.

CHICAGO: Deffinite plans for the party have been made and it will be held at the Greater Pullman V.F.W. Post, 10937 Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois on March 19th. Anyone wishing more information may write to Beaver Island Party Committee of Chicago, 9051 Colfax Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

LANSING: This party will be held on Saturday, March 5th, in the K of C. Hall beginning about 4:00 p.m. Anyone wishing more information about this party should contact Charles C. Earley, Route #2, Box 113, Laingsburg, Michigan - 48848.

COME ON, EVERYONE, LET'S JOIN IN THE FUN AT EITHER ONE OR BOTH PARTIES.

WEATHER: This is the weather for Beaver Island during the month of January as compiled by Fire Officer Bill Wagner.

High temperature for the month was 39 degrees on the 4th.
Low temperature for the month was -3 degrees on the 28th.
Below zero temperatures were recorded on the 16th, 25th, 27th and 28th.
Average daytime temperature was 24 degrees.
Average nighttime temperature was 12.6 degrees.
For 8 days the temperature was in the 30's; 14 days in the 20's and 9 days below 20 degrees.
Total snowfall for the month was 13.5 inches.
Snow on the ground at the end of the month was 7.5 inches.
Total snowfall since November is 16.44 inches.

WEDDINGS: On Saturday, January 8th, at 9:00 a.m., Pamela Eileen Martin and Robert Clarence Palmer exchanged marriage vows during a nuptial Mass solemnized at Holy Cross Church, St. James. Rev. Louis Wren performed the double ring ceremony.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Martin of St. James, and the bridegroom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Palmer of St. James. Maid of Honor was Jeanne Wojan and Best Man was John Gillespie, both of St. James.

A Wedding Breakfast for 22 was served at the Circle M Lodge following the ceremony.

At 7:30 p.m. a Reception was held in the Holy Cross Hall. Music for dancing was provided by phonograph and some of the attending guests with refreshments following.

Our Best Wishes to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Palmer.

OLD SKATES SLICE ICE: Stirring unused muscles into action, a sizeable group of adults organized a skating party. The night was cold and windy but with the help of a huge fire to provide heat and light, each managed several turns around the rink. As the fire died down, the adventurous group departed to Russ and Joy Green's for refreshments and a hearty lunch, where the pounds lost on the ice were quickly replaced.

OBITUARIES: Victor H. Sorensen, 69, of Greenville, Michigan passed away at the United Memorial Hospital after a short illness.

A veteran of World War I, Mr. Sorensen was born in Montcalm County Nov. 3, 1896. His parents were H. P. and Margaret Sorensen.

He was a member of Ray I. Booth Post No. 101, American Legion and the DBS Lodge No. 90. His first wife, the former Mable Andersen, died in 1949. In 1952, he married Irene Hansen, who survives.

Also, surviving are three sisters, Mrs. Eugene Gleason, Greenville, and Mrs. Lloyd Crandall and Mrs. Robert Wilson, Belding, and three brothers, Dr. N. P. Sorensen, Sr., Greenville, Jens, Trufant, and William, Ionia. Memorial contributions may be made to the Montcalm County Chapter of the American Cancer Society, in care of Mrs. William Foote, 923 S. Baldwin St., Greenville, Michigan.

Mr. Sorensen hunted deer and rabbits on the Island for 18 continuous years. He fished the lakes and Islands in the summer and several winters ice fished Genesareth and Barney Lakes.

Our deepest sympathies go to his family and Beaver Island has lost another old friend.

WE GOOFED: Last month we neglected to announce the winner of the Baby Quilt, made by Eva McDonough, and donated to the Holy Cross Altar Society. It was won by Virginia Rountree and she, in turn, very kindly gave it to Vera Wojan as a keepsake.

MORT NEFF VISITS ISLAND: To gather material for his T. V. show "Michigan Outdoors", Mort Neff, Howard Shelly and Dick Black visited the Island. A hunting party was organized and guided by Archie LaFreniere and Erwin Martin. A hike across the ice to Garden Island provided the site of the hunt, where evidence of many rabbits showed promise of much action. One problem that arose was the fact that the dogs reached the beach long before the hunters did and had most of the rabbits out of hunting range before the hunters got there. Some were taken, however, and pictures were shot to be seen on "Michigan Outdoors".

HOSPITAL NOTES: Rita Gillespie was a recent patient in the Charlevoix Hospital.

Lloyd McDonough returned to Little Traverse Hospital for a check-up, and was given an A-1 report.

Ben O'Donnell has moved from Petoskey to Saginaw Veterans Hospital.

Robert Gillespie has returned to Munson Hospital in Traverse City for a check-up.

MARCH OF DIMES PARTY: The generosity of the Islanders's and Island visitors was proved once again at the annual March of Dimes party, held on the 8th of February. Many donated items were successfully auctioned off by Lawrence McDonough after which sandwiches and coffee were sold for the cause. A total of \$149.40 was taken in - not bad for a community as small as ours.

BIRTHS: The A. J. Gallagher's (Patti Martin) of Brooklyn, N. Y. proudly announce the arrival of Kelly Denise Gallagher, who arrived on January 30th at the Public Health Center, Staten Island, N. Y. She weighed in at 7 lbs. 7½ oz. and was 21½ inches long. Mr. and Mrs. Jack Martin and Mr. and Mrs. John Gallagher are the proud grandparents. This is grandchild number 13 for the Martin's and number 1 for the Gallagher's. Congratulations to everyone.

AVID COYOTE HUNTER CONVERTED: At least once a year, Roy Chambers, of Indian River, visits the island to match wits with the wary coyotes of Beaver Island. This last fall he maintained an extensive trap line that brought an end to 13 of the critters. On boarding the plane to head home after this venture, he proudly announced that the coyotes of Beaver Island had been eliminated. Just as he snapped his seat belt, a lone coyote ran across the run-way, as if to challenge his return. This was indeed a low blow, and Roy returned to the Island this winter to get this last Coyote. At the time he arrived back, his hunting companions here on the island, were deeply involved in rabbit hunting. To more or less bide his time, Roy went with them only to discover that this type of hunting is fun and needless to say, the Island coyote, also is enjoying this switch.

YOUTH CENTER OFFERS MOVIES: For the rest of the winter, Friday nights are to be movie nights at the Youth Center. This will be open to the public with a nominal fee to help defray the expenses of an interesting list of good movies.

SCHOOL NEWS: The following is the Honor Roll for the last marking period.

Juniors - Phyllis Gregg and Jeanne Wojan
Grade 8 - Mary Ann Palmer and Angela Wojan
Grade 5 - Joan LaFreniere
Grade 3 - Patricia Wojan
Grade 2 - Gerald Connaghan, Kathie McDonough and Kiane Wojan

High School Michigan History and Biology students are busy with projects for the Grade and High School Exhibit, which will take place on April 22 and 23rd in conjunction with the Annual School Program.

Students of Grades 5 - 8 are studying words, words, words to prepare for a spell down to be held at the P. T. A. meeting on February 20th. Awards will be given to the winners.

Open House will be held at Beaver Island School on February 16th and 17th. All parents and other interested Islanders are invited to come to the school on these two days and see their children in action.

SERVICEMEN'S NOTES: The following address has been received for Mike Cull.

Micheal Carl Cull 915-74-79
U. S. S. Criskany
M. Division
% F. P. O.
San Francisco, Calif.

ALTAR SOCIETY NOTES: The following officers have been elected to the Holy Cross Altar Society.

President - Mary Minor
Vice-President - Skip McDonough
Secretary - Vera Wojan
Treasurer - Joy Green

WEDDING: Mr. and Mrs. Justo Torres of Weslaco, Texas announces the marriage of their Teresa to Peter C. Brown, son of Mr. and Mrs. Francis E. Brown of Chicago, Illinois, on December 30th. The wedding was held in Saint Juan of Arc Church and a reception was held immediately following the ceremony in the New Orlean Ball Room at the Cortez Hotel in Weslaco, Texas.

Another reception was held in Chicago the week-end of January 22nd for relatives and friends who were unable to attend the wedding. Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Peter Brown.

NEWS FLASH: Beginning February 14th, Beaver Island will have daily mail service to and from the Island. This is very good news to the Islander's who are here in the winter. We have always received mail just about everyday, but it only left the Island three days a week and this was a big problem especially during the month of December. Beaver Island sends a big Thank You to the Postal Department.

FROM THE MAIL BAG: The following item was sent to us by Mrs. S. J. Juzwiak of Parchment, Michigan. We thought, perhaps, you too, would find it interesting.

The following appeared in the December, 1965 issue of the IRISH DIGEST, 43 Parkgate Street, Dublin 8. There is a page called "Our Postbag" where letters from readers are published.

"BEAVER ISLAND IRISH -- A Dublin reader, R.F., has been reading an account written over 16 years ago, of Beaver Island in the middle of Lake Michigan, U.S.A. While it has attracted novelists, artists and the like, it has 'resisted the encroachment of modernism'. Of the 500 families living there, 80 percent are of pure Irish stock, states this account. They live by fishing, observe Irish customs, sing Irish songs and recount Irish legends. One of these islanders, Johnny Green, is credited with having a repertoire of 100 old Irish ballads. The Beaver Island Irish are stated to have given more than 40 ship captains and hundreds of able seamen to Great Lakes navigation. That account was published in 1949, concluded R. R. Has the situation altered radically since then? Perhaps some American reader could tell us."

Wini and Lawrence McDonough let us enjoy a letter they received addressed to Enoch Hill on Beaver Island, from the Paul Heflin's. The Heflin's are having a marvelous time in Florida and we would like to have you all enjoy one paragraph from their letter about the weather.

"It's a gorgeous day and the temperature in the shade on our balcony is 72 degrees, the warmest it has been for the last three days. The sky and water are again the beautiful blue one expects them to be in Florida. As I sit here on the balcony with a warm soft breeze blowing, I can see two large freighters on the horizon and several sport fishing boats with their high towers, closer in. A plane just went by, over the water -- and flying lower than our seventeenth floor apartment. It seems strange to look down on a plane in flight."

It sounds wonderful there, but we especially liked the following excerpt from their letter. "For us, the island is Beaver Island, without any question".

TRAVELLER RETURNS: Again, this month we are continuing Mr. Hugh Harley's articles which appeared in the Donegal Democrat about Beaver Island under the by-line 'The Traveller'.

BEAVER TALES

TRAVELLER WRITES:

In case your geography and history lessons in school have grown rusty with the years or, what is more likely, you got little or none of the story about North America I shall call the class to order and try to give you the background of the Emerald Isles. First of all they are located in one of the Great Lakes, the chain of immense fresh water inland seas which empties into and provides most of the flow of the St. Lawrence River. The five main lakes inter-connect and feed each other and they form a very large portion of the border between the United States and Canada. They are named Erie, Ontario, Michigan, Huron and Superior. There is a considerable fall between Erie and

Ontario and this forms the Niagara River and the great Niagara Falls. Ontario empties into the St. Lawrence river. There is a slight fall between Huron and Erie and this forms a double narrows at the lower end of which is the U. S. city of Detroit and its companion, the city of Windsor in Canada across the stream.

The next junction of the Great Lakes is three-fold and inter-connects Michigan with Huron at water level and Huron with Superior which has a higher level so that a locked canal is built to pass ships of huge size. The connecting stream and canal is the Sault Ste. Marie, a French name. It is one among the many French names which predominate on the Lakes and all of the waterways feeding them because French explorers, French Catholic Missionaries and French traders seem to have been the first Europeans to visit them and bring them to world knowledge. The whole area is partly of the French Possessions surrendered to the British after the fall of Quebec, and partly those which were purchased by the United States in the midst of the Napoleonic Wars with Britain.

A PART OF NEW FRANCE

Our story of the Emerald Isles involves the area where three of the Great Lakes come together. There are islands galore in this area both large and small and many passes for navigation go through them. One pass is entirely within U. S. territory and is called the Straits of Michilimacinae - Macinae for short; and Straits is plural because there's a North Channel and a South Channel past the Islands of Macinae and Bois Blanc (white wood). You go through one of these passes to get into Lake Michigan, and the great central city of Chicago lies at the foot of that lake. Unless there is fog or the darkness of night, you can scarcely navigate into Lake Michigan or out of it without sighting the group of lovely green islands which some early explorer named after the beavers that abounded in them but the Irish settlers called Emerald or the Green Isles.

These islands were definitely sighted by the early French explorers of the 1600's and many of the trappers and fur traders must have landed on them to barter with the Indians for furs, particularly for the furs of the beavers for which the islands were named.

Up to the present time the earliest written record is in a report to his superiors by Father Francis Xavier Charlevoix, S.J., who explored portions of the Great Lakes and the shore country in the early 1720's. He said that on the way into Lake Michigan he passed a LARGE ISLAND THAT LOOKED VERY GREEN TO HIM.

The City of Charlevoix and the county of Charlevoix in Michigan are named for this dauntless missionary, and Charlevoix is the port from which you embark for the Emerald Isles.

Far to the west in Northern Michigan is another county named Baraga and this is close to the reservation of the L'Anse Indian tribe on the south shore of Lake Superior. This county commemorates Father Frederic Baraga who came to those Green Islands to bring Christianity to the Indians in 1832 and eventually became Bishop of the diocese of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, or Marquette, in 1857.

The Emerald Isles are 22 miles from the nearest point on the mainland and 32 miles north-west of the port of Charlevoix.

The islands are a part of Charlevoix county. There are eight of them: named Beaver, Gull, Squaw, Whiskey, Trout, High, Garden and Hog. The largest is Beaver which is 16 miles long and 8 miles wide, has 41 miles of shoreline and a delightful shore drive circling the island for a total of more than 30 miles. There are seven inland lakes including at least three with splendid fishing.

For hunters there are deer, grouse, woodcock, wild ducks and geese and rabbits and other small game. You must camp out under primitive conditions on most of the islands but the main island and its principal town of St. James have a bathing beach and playground and air strip; a fine bathing beach and State camping site on the east shore, and two other formal camping grounds. For the rest you are back in primitive America for:

"This is the Forest primeval;
The murmuring pines and the
hemlocks
Bearded with moss and in garments green
Indistinct in the twilight
Stand like Druids of Eld
Their voices sad and prophetic."

THE EARLIEST MISSIONARIES

The Jesuit Missionaries were at Sault Ste. Marie by 1641 and the permanent mission there was built in the 1660's. A companion Mission was established at Ste. Ignace in the 1670's. The detailed records of these missionaries have world-wide fame as one of the greatest sources of early American history and are published under the title; "The Jesuit Relations".

The great Father Marquette whose explorations opened so much of the west was stationed at Ste. Ignace between 1671 and 1673 and it is highly probable that he with many others among his colleagues visited the Green Islands in the seventeenth century if there were Indians living on them at that time. On the route down Lake Michigan Fr. Marquette's expedition, which opened the great Mississippi Valley in 1673 certainly passed the Emerald Isles; and his funeral cortege also passed close to them when his remains were brought back to the Mission at Ste. Ignace for burial in 1677.

Father Charlevoix (1682-1761) prepared regular reports of his work and these are compiled into the Jesuit Relations and into his famous work "The History of New France."

It is another century before another written record appears; but it seems very certain that Europeans settled and worked at lumbering and fishing and hunting on these islands, gaining their livelihood by supplying sailing ships and then the early steamships plying Lake Michigan.

The location of Beaver Island made it a natural point for this traffic and the harbors of St. James, Green Bay, French Bay and Cable's Bay provided convenient shelter.

Doubtless, too, there were Irishmen in those early lumbering crews. But these were seasonal visitors and workers and there were probably no permanent European residents in the first thirty or forty years of the nineteenth century.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

FOR SALE: Cottage for sale in Beaver Harbor. Contact Jewell Gillespie, St. James, Michigan - 49782.

FOR SALE: Lot for sale on Sand Bay, plus 3 lots on Beaver Harbor. 40 acres for sale at Beaver Island Airport. Other lots are available. Contact Vernon H. LaFreniere, St. James, Michigan - 49782.