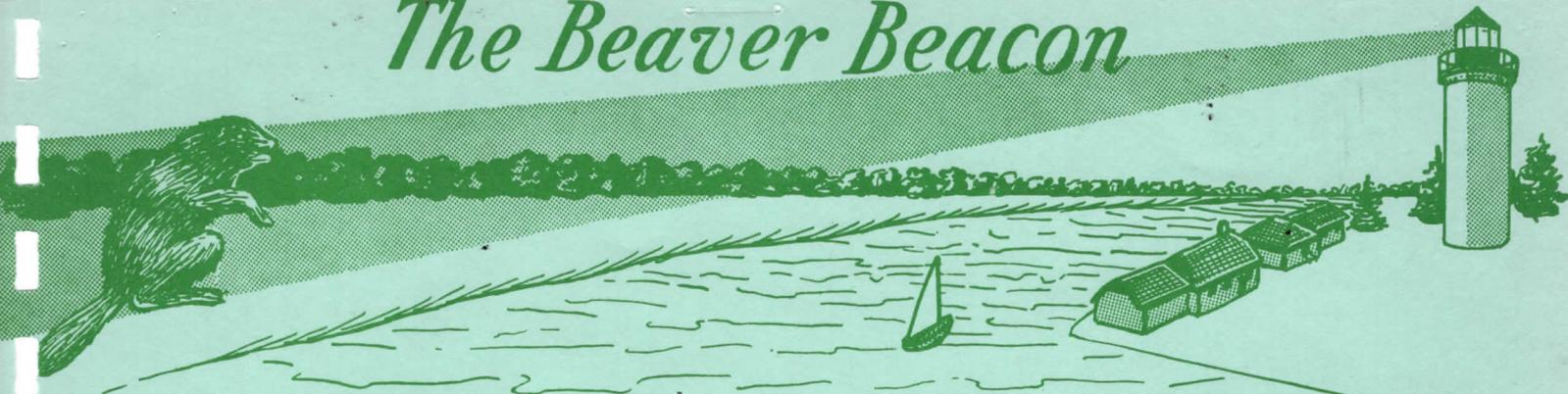


The Beaver Beacon



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

March 1966

ST. PATRICK'S DAY

May the blessing of the Light be on you-
light without and light within.

May the blessed sunshine shine upon you
and warm your heart until it glows like a great peat fire-
so that the stranger may come and warm himself,
and also a friend.

And may the light shine out of the two eyes of you,
like a candle set in the two windows of a house,
bidding the wanderer to come in out of the storm.

May the blessing of the rain be on you-the soft, sweet rain.
May it fall upon your spirit,
so that all the flowers may spring up,
and shed their sweetness on the air.

And may the blessing of the Great Rains be on you:
may they beat upon your spirit and wash it fair and clean,
and leave there many a shining pool,
where the blue of heaven shines reflected-
and sometimes, a star.

And may the blessing of the Earth be on you-
the great, round earth.

May you ever have a kindly greeting for those you pass,
as you're going along the roads.

May the earth be soft under you, when you lie out upon it,
tired at the end of the day.

And may it rest easily over you,
when at last you lie out under it.

May it rest so lightly over you
that your soul may be quickly through it, and up, and off-
and on its way to God.

-An Irish blessing

2

February gave the residents of Beaver Island a bad case of spring fever with many balmy, clear days. Old Man Winter hasn't given up yet however, for his icy breath is being blown over the island with renewed vigor as the early days of March roll by.

FIRE CALL: Late at night on the 13th of February, fire broke out in the home of Erwin and Alice Martin. The family quickly evacuated without mishap and through the efforts of many volunteers and the fire truck the fire was brought under control. Most of the inside of the house suffered severe water and smoke damage but the fire was kept pretty much contained to one room. Needless to say, Erwin is now planning some rather extensive re-modeling, come spring.

WEATHER: The weather last month as recorded by Fire Officer Bill Wagner, is as follows:

High temperature was 49 degrees on the 9th.
Low temperature was -7 degrees on the 19th.
Average daytime temperature was 29.6 degrees.
Average nighttime temperature was 16.3 degrees.
Total rainfall .98 inches.
Total snowfall 2.5 inches in February.
Total snowfall since November is 18.94 inches.

ST. PADDY'S PARTIES: This is a report on all the parties held in St. James, Lansing and Chicago.

ST. JAMES: This year's St. Patrick's party will be held at the Holy Cross Hall, sponsored by the women of the Holy Cross Alatr Society. A fine meal of Roast Turkey will be served with lively entertainment afterwards. This event always brings most of the island residents out and quite often a good number from the mainland make this event a must on their calender. Be sure to mark the date - March 17th - and come to the Beaver's with a Shamrock in your button hole.

LANSING PARTY: Reports have drifted back to the island that all who attended the Lansing Beaver Island Party had a good time. A good turnout attended, to meet with old friends and meet new ones, with a common interest in Beaver Island. There was no formal program, so the entire evening could be devoted to get-to-gethering. Committeemen who's efforts brought about the success of the event were - Fred Annand, General Chairman; Charles C. Earley, Keith Rasmussen, Ron Grant and George Egbert.

CHICAGO: For first hand information about the Chicago Party, please read the next page of the Beacon. Come on, everyone, let's go Chicago way on March 19th.

ISLAND ACCIDENT: While on his way home from St. James, Friday evening, February 5th, Frank O'Donnell did his best to climb a large pine tree with his car. Frank received a severe scalp laceration that was deftly sewed up by Dr. Haynes. The seriousness of the injury could not be accurately determined, so Dr. Haynes notified the United States Coast Guard to send a helicopter to make a nnight-time transfer from the Island to Munson Hospital in Traverse City. Latest reports indicate that Frank is doing fine, other than an aching head. He has been discharged from the hospital and is recuperating in Grand Rapids.

A N N O U N C I N G

THE 12TH ANNUAL ST. PATRICK'S PARTY

For the benefit of Holy Cross Church, Beaver Island, Mich.

SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 1966 - 8:30 P.M.

V.F.W. PULLMAN POST
10937 S. Michigan Ave.

Ample Parking

DONATIONS: \$2.00 per person
DONATIONS: \$1.50 Children (under 18)

Your donation entitles you to:

- *An evening of dancing and entertainment
with THE BILL STACK BAND
- *Sandwiches and salad - all you can eat
- *Attractive door prizes

Remember the date. Come and bring your friends. Help us make this party a success. It is a worthy cause and a wonderful opportunity for a good time, a chance to see old friends and make new ones.

If you are not able to come, a contribution can be sent directly to Father Louis Wren, Holy Cross Church, Beaver Island, Michigan.

GAME NEWS

SIGNS OF SPRING: An occasional Gull reeling in the bright sunlight on the lengthening days indicates open water close to the islands.

Something rarely seen on the mainland at this time of the year, is activity on the Golf links, but not so on the island, as quite often now, Father Lewis can be seen chasing that little white ball around the course. One nice feature is, there is no waiting in line at the tees.

With so little snow on the ground, early trips around the island can be attempted. Huge ice jams along the eastern shore are spectacular as some are at least thirty feet high and of grotesque shapes.

Flocks of wild geese have been seen and heard as they set down in the water to rest on the flights northward.

The woods are quiet now, as rabbits and dogs recuperate from a busy season. The hunters, well, they all survived in pretty good shape.

GEESE: The Beaver Island Game Club is busy preparing to stock the Island with Canadian Wild Geese. This project, if successful, will provide some fine hunting and quite an attraction for visitors on the island. The property of Perry Crawford, surrounding Round Lake, will be used for the planting of ten mated pairs. These birds will be clipped so they cannot fly. Instinct provides the homing device that brings the young birds back to their nesting place. Eight nesting rafts have been built and placed on Round Lake, where the birds won't be molested by predators. This area will be posted as sanctuary, where no hunting what so ever will be allowed. If all goes well, in three years Beaver Island will have its own habitation of Canadian Geese. Those that contributed time and effort on this project are Erwin Martin, Bill Wagner, Bud McDonough, Tim McDonough, Russell Green, Jack Martin, Archie Minor and Phil Gregg.

SHANTY TOWN NEWS: From the little village of ice shanties on the harbor catches of perch are still being brought in. These catches are well earned, however, for often times there is quite a wait between bites. Perry Gatliff and Dr. Haynes have had the best luck recently, with a total of eighteen nice big ones in two days.

THE HUNTER

The hunter crouchers in his blind
'neath camouflage of every kind,
And conjures up a quacking noise
To lend allure to his decoys.
This grown-up man, with pluck and luck
Is hoping to outwit a Duck.

Ogden Nash

REMEMBER ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER IN HOLY CROSS HALL, ST. JAMES, MICH.
TIME: 5:30 P.M.
ADMISSION: \$1.25 for Adults - \$.75 for Children - Pre--Schooler's Free

THIS DOG CLIMBS TREES! Mrs. Elmer Floyd sent us the following article that appeared in the National Tattler in Toledo, Ohio.

"When Mr. John Floyd received the month-old puppy from his daughter as a Father's Day present, he was deeply moved. And when he had to put the 16 month old Prince to sleep on January 22nd, he was heartbroken. For Prince was no ordinary dog! From the earliest puppyhood Prince was unlike any other dog ever born. His favorite pastime was climbing trees. When the Floyds spoke of his prowess nobody believed them, so they demonstrated it by placing some of his toys on a branch ten feet high. After Prince casually scaled the tree and retrieved the toys, he became known throughout the neighborhood as the "Climbing Dog". Prince had his serious side, too. On two different occasions his thunderous barks and ominous growls scared off burglars who were intending to loot the Floyd's Toledo, Ohio household. He began to believe that he was a person. When Mrs. Floyd would apply her make-up, he would beg for some lipstick. Once it was on, he would stare at himself in a mirror, occasionally kissing his image. He frequently picked up combs and brushes in his teeth and tried to groom himself. The Floyds may someday get another dog, once the pain of their loss has dimmed -- but there'll never be another Prince. Mr. Floyd doesn't know that Tattler has this photo. His wife sent it to us in the hopes that seeing it here may cheer him up. Tattler hopes so, too!"

Since we cannot put pictures in the Beacon, we are unable to let our readers see the Climbing Dog, but the Editors of the Beacon have the picture to prove it.

HONOR ROLL: The following students were on the Honor Roll for the past 6 weeks marking period.

Grade 3	Patricia Wojan	Grade 8	Mary Ann Palmer
Grade 2	Gerald Connaghan		Angie Wojan
	Kathie McDonough	Grade 9	Judy LaFreniere
	Diane Wojan		Ronnie Wojan
Grade 5	Joan LaFreniere	Grade 10	Robertta Palmer
	Audrey Wojan	Grade 11	Jeanne Wojan
Grade 7	Gail Dillingham		Phyllis Gregg
			Sandy LaFreniere

EMERGENCY BENEFIT HELD: In order to help the Erwin Martin Family, after their loss of furnishings and personal effects, due to their house burning, a combined card party and luncheon was held at the Circle M Lodge. Receipts were presented in the form of a gift certificate. Generous donations have come from the mainland, also. Erwin and Alice Martin want to extend a grateful Thank You to all who have extended a helping hand in their time of need.

NEW RESIDENTS: The Island inhabitant's number has grown since the last issue of the Beacon with a new family moving to the Island. Mr. and Mrs. Gerald (Nancy and Gerry) Martin and their four daughters - Dawn, Chris, Cathy and Tammy - have moved to the Island from Flint, Michigan. Gerry is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Martin and Nancy and Gerry will be working with Eileen and Jack at the Circle M Lodge this summer. Welcome to Beaver Island, Nancy and Gerry.

HOSPITAL NOTES: Jack Connaghan returned to the Veteran's Hospital for a check-up following an operation on his right ear. Jack is now able to hear without the aid of a hearing aid and will return in August for an operation on his left ear.

Mrs. Ed Breden, the former Mary Margaret Green, has returned to her home following an operation for a growth on her leg. She is doing fine and the operation was a success.

Loy Malloy was hospitalized for a few hours in a Lansing Hospital following a fall at the Lansing Party. She has returned to her sister's home in Muskegon and from all reports is doing fine.

SERVICEMENS NEWS: Paul LaFreniere, who has been with the Job Corps program at McCook, Neb. has returned to visit his mother, Musette LaFreniere and his brother, Leon, in Charlevoix. He is also visiting his father, Vernon, on Beaver Island before going to southern Michigan to seek employment.

Daniel N. Gallagher, son of Mr. and Mrs. John A. Gallagher, is upholding a family tradition.

Danny enlisted in the U. S. Coast Guard and reported to Cape May, N. J. on March 6th.

His father, relief captain on the Beaver Islander, served in the Coast Guard 24 years. His brother, A. J., is also in the Coast Guard and is stationed in Brooklyn, N. Y.

HOSPITAL NOTES: Jack Connaghan returned to the Veteran's Hospital for a check-up following an operation on his right ear. We have received a new address for Edward Palmer, son of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Palmer. He will return in August for an operation on his left ear.

P. F. C. Edward Palmer USS 55802884

Mrs. Ed Breden, the former Mary Margaret Green, has returned to her home following an operation for a growth on her leg. She is doing fine and the operation was a success.

120th Avn. Bn. (Otter Det).
A.P.O. San Francisco, Calif. 96307

Loy Malloy was hospitalized for a few hours in a Lansing Hospital following a fall at the Lansing Party. BEAVER TALES She has returned to her sister's home in Muskegon and from all reports is doing fine.

When winter's frigid breath coats the waters surrounding the islands with a layer of ice, tales of yesteryear and the uses that were made of this phenomenon make today's routine seem pretty plush.

Most notable of ice traveler's are the men who made up the list of Beaver Island's mail carriers, in the days when these men were the winter link with the mainland. Adventure was merely a way of life and to these men, a trip from Beaver Island to Cross Village and back was all in a days work. For safety sake this job was most always handled by a team of two men with horse and sleigh. Beginning in the late 1800's through 1930, was roughly the era of the ice carriers.

The names of Paul LaBlance, Frank and Carl Left, Willie Boyle (Brutz), Joe Alphonse, Harlem Gallagher, George Williams, Jack Anthony, Raymond MacDonald, Charlie Gallagher, Willie Gibson, Dan and Frank Cornstalk, Joe Floyd, Joe Sendenburg (Mafroe), and Charlie Martin and others, who filled in short periods, make up the list. Around each man, many stories could be told of harrowing experiences and bitter battles with the winter elements of the Northern Lake.

USS 55802884

120th Avn. Bn. (Otter Det).
A.P.O. San Francisco, Calif. 96307

Winters of the past seemed to be more severe and the ice thin. Caution was the byword in crossing the ice to Cross Village. Between island currents always keep the ice thin in certain areas and visibility was not always good, so on various occasions problems did come up that made many of these trips into tales of adventure that would make fictional stories seem like a conducted tour through a rose garden.

Almost unbelievable is the tale of endurance of Dan Cornstalk, a High Island Indian, who on several occasions, picked up the mail at the Beaver Island Post Office and headed out over the ice on foot. Though the mail sack wasn't very heavy, since parcel post hadn't come into being yet, his destination wasn't Cross Village, but Mackinaw City. There is a mountain of difference between walking on a sidewalk in the middle of May and walking across the icy wastes of Lake Michigan in mid-winter. Pressure ridges of ice have either got to be climbed over or walked around, solid ice isn't always in a straight line from point to point and drifting snow, crusty or soft, make the miles extremely long. Dan made the trip to Mackinaw City alright and the day was but half over. He picked up the return mail and headed out again. Before darkness brought the day to a close, he made it back, not only to St. James but to his home on High Island. For a man in good shape, a hike from Beaver to High Island and back again would be considered a mighty good day's outing.

Average mail trips to Cross Village with horse and sleigh, took the better part of a day, with a stop at Hod Island to feed and rest the horse. Many trips were uneventful and pleasant, with many a good time in Cross Village before returning the next day. There were occasions when the trip back was left entirely up to the horse, since the carriers had met too many friends, the night before, and merely covered up in the sleigh and went to sleep, oftentimes not waking up until the horse had stopped at the St. James Post Office.

Ice conditions can change in a very short period of time, due to wind and temperature, making some trips that start out in fine shape, end up in near catastrophe. On a return trip, Carl Left and Joe Floyd were making good time with the wind on their backs, when suddenly their sleigh lurched up under them, forcing them to jump clear. A pressure ridge had caught the sleigh, mail and all in a holocaust of crushing ice. The men watched in awe as the rapidly growing ridge of ice ground the sleigh to splinters and the mail, too, was consumed. The following day, they returned to the scene in hopes of recovering the mail. By then, what had been a towering ridge of ice, over thirty feet high, there was nothing. No ridge, no sleigh and alas! No mail bag.

Frank Nackerman vividly recalls his first trip in 1928, with George Williams and Jim Washagesic. With the temperature hanging at a brisk 16 degrees below zero, Frank could no longer feel that he had any toes and his nose and cheeks, too, were feeling the effects of frost bite. The ice between Hog Island Reef and Hog Island, forced Frank and Jim to walk ahead to sound for solid ice, while George led the horse. George lost his footing on a piece of heaved ice and fell hard, cracking the vack of his head on the ice. George got right up so Frank and Jim never realized that actually George had knocked himself nearly senseless. Finding a safe route around a bad spot of ice, Frank and Jim motioned George to come on.

Not comprehending their motions, George drove the horse onto the weak

ice and went through. Horrified, Frank and Jim looked back to see George waist deep in water with the horse and sleigh. It took some doing, but soon all were on solid ice again. George's clothes quickly froze like a suit of cast iron, making the last leg of the trip a frozen hell. Reaching the shelter of home was not only welcome but a lifesaver. The process of thawing out was long and painful, especially for George Williams, who had froze his toes so badly they had to be amputated, and ultimately caused his death. Regardless of the dangers and discomforts, these men liked the work and met the challenge with a grim pride, as they trod a most unusual mail route.

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.

FOR SALE: Portable white porcelain refrigerator, 19 x 21 x 22". Little used - \$50.00. L. T. Rountree, St. James, Michigan - 49782, Phone 448-5733, Area Code 616.

Since this is St. Patrick's month we will give the following toast to you on March 17th.

"Sláinte 'gus saoghal agat"
(Health and long life to you)

ST. JAMES' MICH.
BEAVER ISLAND

FIRST CLASS