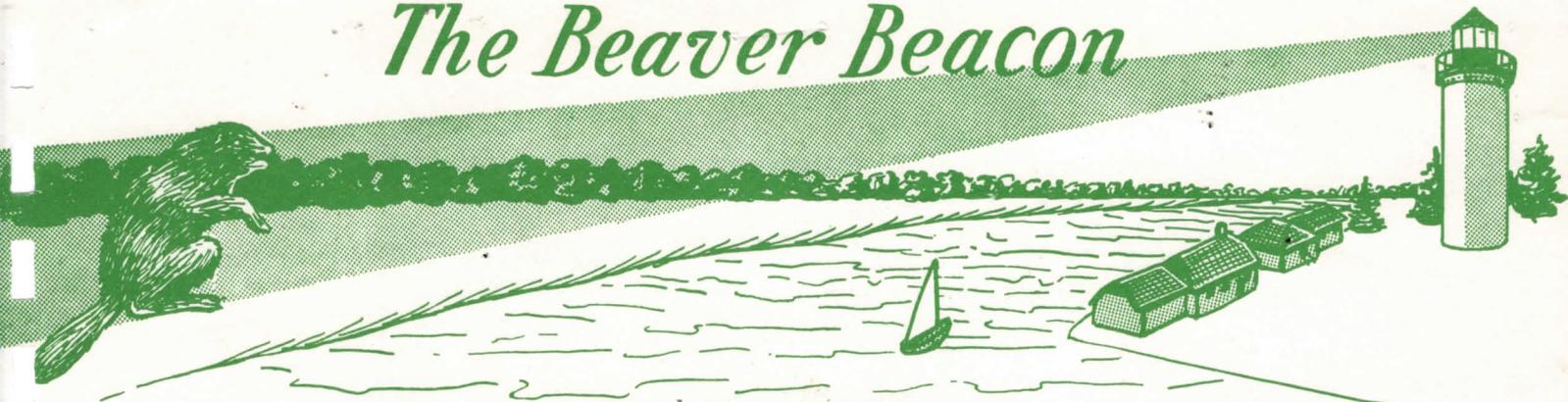


# The Beaver Beacon



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

May 1966

The mild winter just passed, is still being paid for in installments of frigid spring days and nights. Spring is gaining the upper hand slowly, however. Buds are bursting and wild flowers are beginning to blanket the forest floor with hues of violet, yellow and white.

"AMERICA, THE BEAUTIFUL?" Since this is spring and clean-up time, we would like to have you read the following poem written by a Boy Scout from Moorestown, New Jersey. Stop and think about each line.

## AMERICA, THE UGLY

Oh, pitiful for smoggy skies  
For jungles made of stone.  
For blazing mountains tragedies,  
Where bubbling brooks did roam.  
America! America!  
We shed our trash on thee,  
And now regret the mess we made,  
From sea to shining sea.

How terrible the picnic trash,  
The beer cans by the road.  
The sewage pipes that feed the streams,  
Their deadly, smelly load.  
America! America!  
With lakes of glistening foam,  
And airplanes spraying poisons on,  
The dear land we call home.

OLD CARS: Beaver Island, noted for its natural beauty, is fast becoming a final resting place for abandoned junk cars. The airport, woods and many private yards are quickly creating scenes that spoil the whole atmosphere. Their removal and disposal is both costly and difficult, but something must be done and is going to be. Naturally, considerable cooperation will be needed, but those truly interested in the Island are sure to do all they can.

It is, and probably always will be, a general practice for those owning property, to keep an old car on the island, saving themselves the expense of transporting a car back and forth. The problem arises a year or two after the old car has reached the Island and repairs quickly surpass its worth. It is then either abandoned or sold locally, but the car stays.

Tentative plans are to acquire the use of an isolated piece of State

land where old cars can be hauled out of sight and systematically crushed and buried. Once a system has been worked out, it will be the responsibility of the owner to see to it that his inactivated vehicle is properly disposed of.

Heading up the Committee of Car Disposal, is Mr. Lin Rountree, a man deeply interested in making Beaver Island a place of beauty again. The townships of Peaine and St. James, along with the Civic Association, are going to do what they can to make this operation a permanent and effective endeavor.

**WEATHER REPORT:** This is recorded for the Beacon by Bill Wagner, Fire Officer.

The weather on Beaver Island for the month of April was for the most part warm and sunny. Dry leaves and debris kept the fire hazard high for the first part of the month, but a few scattered showers lowered the hazard for a few days during the latter part of the month. As the Beacon goes to press, the fire hazard has increased and caution should be used whenever burning is done. Average high temperature for the month was 45.7 degrees, with an average low of 31 degrees. Highest temperature was 57 degrees on the 17th, and the lowest was 24 degrees occurring on both the 7th and 15th.  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches of snow fell during the month for a total of 1.49 inches of precipitation. 11 days the temperature was in the 50's, 10 days in the 40's and 9 days in the 30's. Total snowfall since last October was 27.19 inches.

**GAME NEWS:**

Trout Season Opens - The last Saturday of April brought many to the Island to try their hand with rod and reel at Fox Lake. Limit catches were made by many, while others were content with one's and two's. Fishing in general, was fair and a good time was had by all.

Geese - The Game Club's planted geese at Round Lake have caused some concern with their wanderings away from the area. A couple of round-ups have been held, in order to herd them back, but the efforts were futile. Though they make Round Lake their primary base, they like to wander about. Perhaps, when they get to nesting, they will stay put, we hope!

**BOATING SEASON STARTS:** Again, Tom Loeb's yacht, the Tim-Tom, of Charlevoix, was the first pleasure boat to come to the Island. Tom and his son, Tim, tied up to the Yacht Dock, Friday evening on the 29th of April. Needless to say, there was no trouble finding room at the facility.

**ENGAGED:** Mr. and Mrs. John A. Gallagher, of St. James, announce the engagement of their daughter, Mary to Donald Heilig, son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Heilig, of Charlevoix. The wedding will be June 11 at St. Marys Church, Charlevoix.

A graduate of Western Michigan University, the bride has taught fourth grade at Charlevoix Elementary School for the past two years. Heilig was graduated by Ferris State College and teaches journalism and business at Ellsworth High School.

Postmaster and Mrs. Frank Nackerman announce the engagement of their daughter, Colleen to Jack Volk, son of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Volk of Buffalo, N.Y.

Colleen is attending Marygrove College in Detroit and will graduate June 12th with a Bachelor of Arts degree. She will teach in the Detroit Public School System in the fall.

Jack graduated from the University of Detroit, April 15th of this year and will be employed after July 1st as an electrical engineer by the Bendix Corporation in Southfield, Michigan.

The wedding will take place in the fall.

**OUT ISLAND PROJECTS START:** The Conservation Department has begun another season, improving trails and clearings on Garden and High Island. Heading up the local crew, is Jack Connaghan, assisted by Gene Burke and Robert Malloy. Summer visitors to these islands will find the going much easier hiking over areas that before were nearly inaccessible. The primary purpose of this program is to improve game habitat and to make it easier to study game habits.

**STABLE MATES:** Frequently during the resort season exuberant groups come to the Island to have fun and get away from the usual hustle and bustle. Once in a great while, however, one or two group members find peculiar ways of inserting humor into a situation. Such was the case early this month, when it was decided to stable a horse in a motel unit. With the dawning of the next day the horse was gone but the mess was there, along with an aroma not usually associated with better motels. We know those involved feel ashamed now and feel sure a certain amount of maturing was gained. More serious episodes have happened in the past, such as slipping the lines off the ferry boat and smashing the lights out on the Yacht Dock. A peculiar type of fun, don't you think?

**BIRTHS:** Mr. and Mrs. Jack O'Donnell, of Chicago, announce the birth of a daughter, Colleen Marie, on March 25th. This is the 7th child for the O'Donnells and the 7th girl. Mrs. Rita Gillespie is the aunt.

Mr. and Mrs. Alex Walgus announce the arrival of a daughter, Lisa Ann on April 22nd, weighing in at 7 lbs.  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz. Mrs. Walgus is the former Beverly O'Donnell and the proud grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Frank O'Donnell. Miss Lisa was Christened on May 8th.

**SCHOOL NEWS:** The following students were listed on the Honor Roll for the last marking period.

Juniors - Phyllis Gregg, Jeanne Wojan, Sandy LaFreniere  
Sophomores - Joseph McDonough  
Freshmen - Ronald Wojan, Judith LaFreniere  
Grade 8 - Mary Ann Palmer, Angie Wojan  
Grade 5 - Joan LaFreniere, Audrey Wojan  
Grade 3 - Patricia Wojan  
Grade 2 - Gerald Connaghan, Kathie McDonough, Diane Wojan

Graduation - William F. Gillespie and Ernest F. Martin on Friday, May 20, 1966 at 8:00 p.m. in Holy Cross Church. A reception will follow at Holy Cross Hall and all are invited.

Program - Pupils of Beaver Island School presented an All Comedy Program on Friday, April 22nd. The proceeds, \$57.60, from the show, were contributed by the students to the Beaver Island Dental Clinic Fund.

Senior Banquet given by the Junior Class of Beaver Island School will be held on May 17th. Special guests will be Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Robinson, Father Louis Wren, Dr. and Mrs. H. B. Haynes, the Dominican Sisters, Beaver Island School Board members, parents of Seniors, High School Students and Eighth graders.

P.T.A. - On April 17th the monthly P.T.A. meeting was held at the Beaver Island Community School. Projects by the Biology, American History, Michigan History and English classes were exhibited. The students of grades through five to eight exhibited their art projects and compositions. Students winning awards were Ronald Wojan - First Award in Michigan History, Judy LaFreniere - First Award in Biology, Jeanne Wojan - Second Award in Biology, Phyllis Gregg - Third Award in Biology and Sara Kenwabakeisse - Second Award in Michigan History.

Dental Clinic - Beginning May 16th, a Dental Clinic will be held in the basement of the Medical Center for all Beaver Island School children.

MUSHROOM HUNTING: Even though temperatures have been hanging in the thirties, avid mushroom hunters have been stalking the tasty Morels and Beefsteak mushrooms. Lack of rain and cold temperatures have held down the end results, but some can be found and, perhaps, soon they will be in abundance.

WHITE ELEPHANT SALE: The Holy Cross Altar Society and the Women's Circle of the Beaver Island Christian Church, organized a White Elephant Sale, held on the 25th of April, at the Beaver Island Christian Church. Articles of all descriptions were auctioned off by Marge Wagner, to a capacity attendance. Total receipts, which were to be divided equally between the two organizations, amounted to \$99.02. The Holy Cross Altar Society generously donated their share to help the new Church get its start. Heartfelt thanks go to all who helped make this such a successful effort, and especially to the Altar Society, from the membership of the Beaver Island Christian Church.

MASS MOVE: A caravan of cars, trailers and a big truck, loaded aboard the Beaver Islander, on the 6th of May, bringing to the Island, Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Fenn and their household furnishings, to fill their new summer home on the southwest side of the Harbor. Joining them on the trip was Bob and Jan Severance and Mr. and Mrs. King. Mr. and Mrs. Fenn hail from Niles, Michigan and plan to spend much of their spare time on the Island.

ISLANDER'S RETURN: Added to the previous list of Islander's returning to the Island are the following names: Matt Melville, Raymond Lewis, Mary "Duffy" Gallagher, Mary "Vesty" McDonough, Ada Martin, Edna McCann, Loy Malloy, Mr. and Mrs. James Carpenter, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Neer, Nonie Gallagher, Mary Greene, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Roy, Nellie and Frank O'Donnell, Judy Palmer and Ben O'Donnell. Welcome back, folks.

SERVICEMEN'S NEWS: Danny Gallagher, son of Mr. and Mrs. John A. Gallagher is home on leave after completing his basic training in the United States Coast Guard on Cape May, New Jersey.

OBITUARIES: WILLIAM A. BELFY, 76, retired commercial fisherman, passed away unexpectedly at his home on May 8th.

He was born at Ravenna on February 3, 1890 and came to Beaver Island from Muskegon in 1908.

He and his brother, Erwin, were commercial fishermen and owned the tug, Silver Star.

In October, 1912 he was married to the former Alice Johnston, who died in December 1962.

For the past 15 years he was associated with his daughter, Mrs. Edna McCann in the operation of the Beachcomber.

He was a member of the Holy Cross Church.

Mr. Belfy is survived by two sons, John D. and Erwin, of Detroit; one daughter, Mrs. McCann; a brother, Erwin of Charlevoix and 11 grandchildren. A son, Merrill, preceeded him in death.

Services were held at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 10th. A Requiem Mass was held at Holy Cross Church, with Father Louis Wren officiating. Interment was in Holy Cross Cemetery.

**PANTRY SHOWER:** The Holy Cross Altar Society held a Pantry Shower for the Dominican Sisters at the convent, April 24th at 7:00 p.m. About 33 ladies attended. Games were played following a delicious buffet luncheon. The Dominican Sister's were presented with a gift of repairing their garden fence and a donation towards a new Convent.

**HOSPITAL NOTES:** Musette LaFreniere is a patient in the Charlevoix Hospital. At our last report, Musette is resting comfortably.

Joe "Mafroe" Sendenburgh is still a patient in the Charlevoix Hospital but from all reports is coming along fine.

**STORK SHOWER:** On April 27th, a baby shower was held at Skip McDonough's home for Pam Palmer. Jeanne and Vera Wojan were hostesses at the shower. Games were played and many lovely gifts were received by Pam. A buffet luncheon was served to about 25 guests.

**ANNUAL TROUT FESTIVAL:** On April 30th, the Annual Trout Festival was held at Holy Cross Hall. A delicious Chicken Dinner was served to over 100 people. A fishing tackle box, given away by the Beaver Island Youth Center was won by John A. Gallagher and a huge stuffed Burro was won by Jo Carlisle.

**CANCER DRIVE:** On April 30th, at 9:00, the Annual Cancer Party was held with Mrs. Joy Green as chairman. Donations were auctioned off and sandwiches, cupcakes and coffee were served. Total results was \$121.00. Pretty good for a small group of people on an Island.

**FIRST COMMUNION:** Seven children made their First Holy Communion, May 8th, at the Holy Cross Catholic Church. Their pastor is Father Louis Wren. The children are Mary Teresa Greene, Tommy McDonough, Gerald Conneghan, Mark LaFreniere, Dianne Wojan, Kathy McDonough and Kathy Martin.

**MAY CROWNING:** The Crowning and May procession took place on Sunday May 1, with Billy Gillespie doing the crowning.

**HOME FOR SUMMER:** Edward Wojan, son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Wojan, has returned from the University of Detroit for the summer. Eddie will work with his father this summer and then return to the U. of D. in the fall.

COAST GUARD RETURNS: The Beaver Island Coast Guard station, a sub-unit of the Charlevoix station, opened on May 9th for the 1966 season. The crew, named from the personnel of the Charlevoix Coast Guard station is made of Robert Baker, BM1, who will serve as officer-in-charge, Richard H. Ross BM2, Donald R. Dundas, EN2, Charles E. Feyers SN and Steven W. Anonen FA.

The station will remain open until the closing of the navigation season in December.

Welcome back to the old crew members and hello to the new men. It sure is nice to see lights at the station again.

DENTIST, ANYONE: Dr. N. P. Sorensen, Sr. will be in his office for dental work from June 30th to July 16th.

Dr. N. P. Sorensen, Jr. will be in his office for dental work from July 16th to August 5th.

WEDDINGS: Suzanne Marie Coppens, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Coppens of Sault Ste Marie, formerly of Charlevoix and Beaver Island, became the bride of Robert James Carlson of Riveria Beach, Fla. May 7 at St. Mary's Church. The bridegroom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert H. Carlson of Riveria Beach.

Rev. Victor P. Gallagher of St. Philip Neri in Reed City solemnized the double ring rites.

The reception was held at the V.F.W. Hall with Mrs. Edwin McCann, god-mother of the bride, serving the wedding cake.

YOUTH CENTER ENDS SECOND SEASON: Another year has ended for the Beaver Island Youth Center, after offering a variety of activities to the youngsters during the school year.

This year, a full length movie was shown each week-end at the request of the kids. Billy Gillespie and Dennis Wagner, put the old hall projector in running order and repaired the sound system, that had been inoperative for some time.

A refreshment stand, offering soft drinks, pop corn and candy bars, was operated each night by Marge and Bill Wagner.

Many thanks are in order to all who helped make the Center a success through donations and assistance, and to Father Wren, for the use of the Holy Cross Hall.

Winding up the season, a Box Social was held on May 11th, in order to give the treasury a little boost. Though the attendance was light, the bidding went hot and heavy, as the fancy decorated box lunches were quickly auctioned off by Bill Wagner. High bidder of the evening was "Poor Milt" Bennett, who ended up with a harem of three. \$42.00 was taken in on the event to go towards next year's activities.

Thoughts are now turning towards a building of their own, with separate rooms, so the various age groups could be divided and a broader program worked out. This of course is going to take much time and effort, but now is the time to get started on the planning. We are always open for suggestions from people who have had experience in handling projects such as this, for there are still many problems to solve. Anyone who might have proven ideas of activity programs or administrative pointers, please write to either Mr. Philip Gregg or Mrs. Bernard Wagner, St. James, Michigan 49782.

OBITUARIES: FRANCIS (CLEMENT) BURNS, 47, of Taylor, Mich. He is survived by his widow, four daughters and four brothers, Stanley, John, Alan and Darvill. He was the nephew of Mrs. Pat Bonner, first cousin to Mrs. Marion Martin and Mrs. Rita Gillespie and Mrs. Nonie Gallagher.

## BEAVER TALES

As a tribute to our friend and neighbor, William Belfy, we are reprinting his story as told to Phil Gregg on October 8, 1964 and was printed in the Beaver Beacon, October 1964.

### KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOR

"My first look at Beaver Island was in 1908 while serving as crew on my step-father's two masted schooner, the "Waleska". Quite often we would pull into St. James to pick up a cargo of lumber, cedar posts, barrel staves or rail road ties. The harbor was bustling with activity and was always an enjoyable place to stop, especially for a young lad of 18.

Working on the Lakes under sail was a far cry from today's mode of lake travel. Men under sail not only had to be expert sailors, but had to be weather prophets, buyers and salesmen as well. My step-father, Herman Ludwig, was one of these men; calm under adverse conditions, which were common in late fall.

December of 1910, we had left St. James with a cargo of barrel staves, headed for Ludington. We encountered gale winds off the Manitou Islands, with driven snow so thick one end of the vessel couldn't be seen from the other. The Old Man, who could judge the speed of the vessel by looking at the wake and plotting a course from his last visible sight before the gale hit, headed for Frankfort. After running his estimated time he headed her toward the piers. With the sails snapping in the gale and snow stinging our faces, we listened intently for the horn on the pier. The Old Man shouted "If we miss her, we'll walk ashore, Boys". When we first heard the horn we could then make out the piers -- on either side! We had made it right on the button.

In 1912 I married Alice Johnston, of Beaver Island, and went to work for the Beaver Island Lumber Company, piling lumber on the dock and loading vessels. Between 200 and 250 thousand feet of lumber a week were being shipped from St. James. The train that ran to the head of the Island had to make at least two trips a day, with eight cars, in order to keep the mill busy. Often times they had to head the train up with two engines and make four trips a day. During the summer months tugs would tow booms of logs up from the head to feed the mill. At this rate it was no wonder the timber was taken off so fast.

From 1915 to 1935, my brother, Erwin, a hired hand and I commercial fished with the tug "Silver Star". These were the days when catches were measured in tons, not pounds.

I remember one December during this period, when we were caught off the Fox Islands in foul weather for ten days. It was freezing too hard to lift our nets, so it was just a matter of waiting it out and shifting anchor from one lee to the other around the Island.

Between 1935 and 1937 I served with Captain Allers on the Conservation Patrol Boat No. 1. We patrolled all of Michigan waters, from Michigan City to Isle Royal, in Lake Superior.

I went back to commercial fishing again from 1937 to 1940, with Ronald McCann on the tug "Venus II". Fishing was falling off. The era of the

big catches was over and a war was coming on.

I left the Island to work at the Fisher Boat Works, in Detroit, where I helped build 110 foot Sub-chasers for the Navy.

I returned to the Island and went back to fishing with Roland McCann until 1950. By this time the fishing had practically stopped and the "Venus II" was one of the last tugs to fish gill nets from Beaver Island.

The bones of the first boat I served on, the "Waleska", are now bleaching on the beach, just east of Charlie Martin's dock. The tugs are gone, the mill is quiet. The Island is in a new era and I now serve a few hours a day as bartender at my daughter's tavern, the "Beachcomber" in St. James."

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**NEW RESIDENTS:** Mr. and Mrs. George Egbert, of Lansing, became Beaver Islander's this past month. When George retired from Oldsmobile in Lansing, he and Mrs. Egbert came immediately to Beaver Island where they have had a summer cottage for many years. They plan to make the Island their home for about 10 months out of each year. Welcome, Mr. and Mrs. Egbert.

Another new resident of Beaver Island is Travis Hughes, formerly of Pontiac and a brother of Roy Hughes. Travis is living on the Hughes farm and is employed by Walter Wojan. Welcome to Beaver Island, Mr. Hughes.

**FREIGHTS RATES:** The Beaver Island Boat Company has announced that due to damage claims on over-loaded cars, additional freight charges will have to be placed on vehicles so loaded. Loading and unloading cars on and off the boat, is easily and safely done except when the vehicle is so loaded that it drops on the gangway, often damaging the exhaust system or other parts of the under carriage. Many feel there is a great savings in transporting their own staples to the Island, not realizing they are probably damaging their car as well as doing harm to the economy of the island. Our stores must pay freight on the products they sell, so it is only fair, for these several reasons, that the over loaded car pay a higher rate. Before your next Island vacation, consider the Boat Company and the Island store-keeper.

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CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

**BOATS FOR RENT:** New 14 ft. Meyers Aluminum boats for rent; 63" beam, 22" transom height -- available with new 20 H.P. Johnson outboard. Boat and motor suitable for traveling to adjacent Islands. 12 ft. Meyers Aluminum boats also available on inland lakes and harbor here. Contact WOJAN'S BOATS, St. James, Michigan. Phone 448-5650.

**FOR SALE:** Home for sale in village, with 60 feet beach frontage overlooking the Harbor. Partly furnished. Ada Martin, St. James, Michigan Phone 448-5831 or 448-5973.

FOR SALE: Refreshment Stand with Miniature Golf Course, overlooking boat and harbor. Real money maker, good possibilities for a retired couple to supplement social security. Room for expansion. Contact Mr. A. J. Roy, St. James, Michigan - 49782.

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

FOR SALE: Lot on Sand Bay for sale, 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

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CIRCLE M LODGE  
featuring  
STEAKS - CHICKEN - SHRIMP  
NATIVE WHITEFISH  
LIQUORS - MIXED DRINKS - DRAFT BEER  
TAKE OUT ORDERS  
CHICKEN - WHITEFISH - SHRIMP - PIZZA

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OPEN 12:00 NOON

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WATER WELLS WANTED: Due to the expansion of the local power plant, the Northern Michigan Electric Company is having a new well drilled in early summer. Since the equipment will be on the Island for a limited time only, anyone wishing a well drilled at the same time, may receive more detailed information by filling in the form below and returning it to the Northern Michigan Electric Company, St. James, Michigan 49782.

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NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Return to: Northern Michigan Electric Company, St. James, Mich. 49782

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SEE YOU NEXT MONTH

KEEP POSTED

The following is a Calendar of Events planned for Beaver Island during the next few months. Why not place this page where you'll be able to check on what is coming up next.

- May 15 - Baccalaureate - Holy Cross Church
- 17 - High School Banquet
- 19 - Picnic Day and Movie
- 20 - Graduation - Holy Cross Church - 8:00 P.M.  
Reception following in Holy Cross Hall - all invited.
- 22 - P.T.A. and Awards Program
- 29 - Kick-Off Dinner for Convent - Holy Cross Parish Hall  
Donation \$5.00 per person.
- June 11 - Holy Cross Altar Society Bake Sale
- 25 - Women's Circle, Beaver Island Christian Church - Bake Sale
- July 4 - Civic Carnival - Holy Cross Hall
- Aug. 7 - Holy Cross Altar Society - Bake Sale
- 14 - Annual Homecoming - Holy Cross Church
- 20 - Women's Circle, Beaver Island Christian Church - Bake Sale
- Sept. 3 - Annual Family Dinner, Beaver Island Christian Church
- 30 - Holy Cross Altar Society - Bake Sale
- Oct. 8 - Women's Circle, Beaver Island Christian Church - Bake Sale
- Nov. 14 - Holy Cross Altar Society - Bake Sale
- 16 - Hunter's Dinner
- 19 - Women's Circle, Beaver Island Christian Church - Bake Sale

If there are more activities, please contact the Beaver Beacon and we will list them in next month's Beacon, so they may be added to this list.