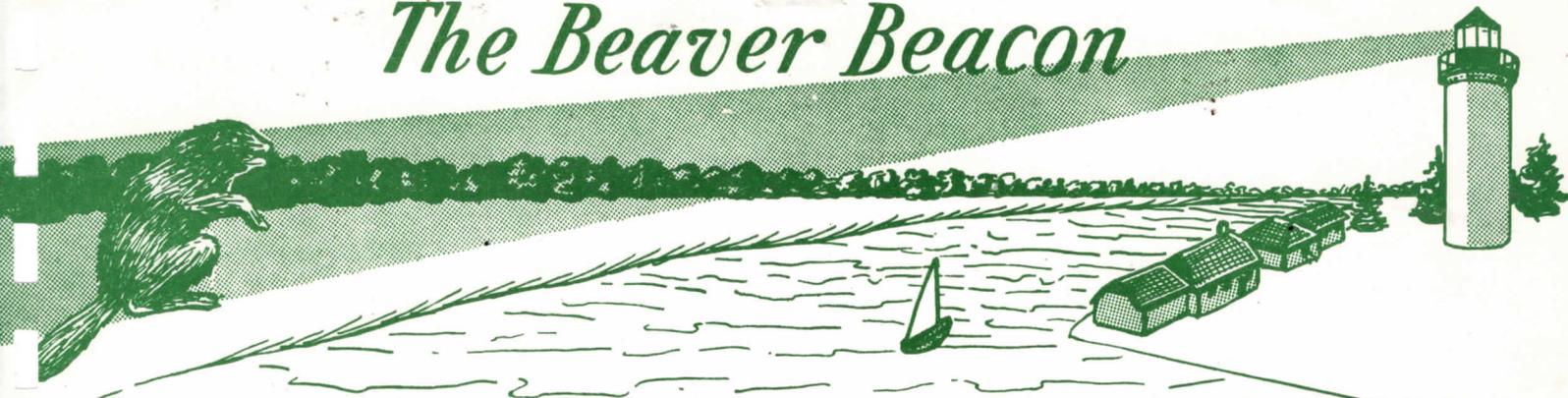


The Beaver Beacon



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

April 1968

Strong southwest winds have swept the harbor free of ice, readying it for another season.

Signs of spring are everywhere now. Drifts of old snow are quickly withering away and new blades of grass are coming up to add green to the landscape.

WEATHER: Beaver Island weather as recorded by Fire Officer Bill Wagner for the month of March.

March started out calm and cool and steadily progressed to 'Banana Country' weather. The whole month remained above normal temperatures, with sunshine and balmy days giving everyone the feeling winter was past and spring was here. Average daytime temperature was 38.8 degrees varying from a low of 22 degrees on the 12th to a high of 59 degrees on the 28th. Temperatures were in the 50's for 3 days; in the 40's for 13 days; in the 30's for 9 days and in the 20's for 6 days. Low temperature of 0 degrees occurred on the 1st and the rest of the nights were somewhat warmer. 8 nights the temperature was between 0 and 10 degrees; 3 nights between 10 and 20 degrees; 14 nights in the 20's and 6 nights in the 30's for an average nighttime temperature of 31.2 degrees. March started out with 12 inches of snow on the ground and by the 17th there was some snow in the woods and drifts along the roads but for all general purposes the ground was bare. No new snow fell during the entire month. Rain was recorded on the 9th, 16th, 19th, 28th and 31st for a total of .62 inches.

GAME NEWS: This is Beaver trapping season and Karl Kuebler, Rogers Carlisle, Eddie Connaghan and David Kujawa are nearing their bag limit of five Beaver on each license.

A controlled burn was executed just south of Miller's Marsh, this past week. This is an open area of about 35 acres. The job was accomplished through the efforts of Game Club members and the Department of Conservation. This, we hope, will provide better grazing for deer.

On one of the early spring boat trips 10,000 rainbow trout will be brought to the island for planting in Fox Lake. Spring trout fishing will be allowed but the fall fishing should be much better.

Island sportsmen are all anxious to find out what our chances will be regarding the Coho planting down state. It is just possible they may migrate to the island area later in the season.

With the usual good bass fishing and with the perch returning and sizeable commercial catches of Whitefish being taken in recent years, who knows, perhaps, we will have a bonanza on our hands!

COAST GUARDS RETURN: Always a sure sign of spring is the commissioning of the Lighthouses and the return of the crew to the Island Coast Guard Station. Those aboard this year are Chief J. B. Stevens, Ron Cox, Frank Hackett, Charles Ronquest and Thomas Johnson. Welcome to Beaver Island, boys, and may your missions be few in number this year.

CIVIC AFFAIRS: The Beaver Island Civic Association, at their April meeting, discussed projects to be initiated in the near future. Spring clean-up time is here again and the last Saturday in April is the date set for cleaning up accumulated debris around the harbor and roads. This is accomplished each year through volunteer help of children and adults, along with trucks furnished, also on a volunteer basis. It was requested that a plea be made for both permanent and summer residents to make an effort to clean up their yards and for those living on the main streets of St. James to sweep their sidewalks. It was also suggested that in order to help beautify the area, that residents plant flowers and trees in appropriate locations.

Plans are being made for the 4th of July celebration. A parade is being planned that only children will take part in. If the various business places wish to sponsor a child or children, this would be fine but with the stipulation that the children build the floats. Anyone desiring more information in this regard, may contact Marge Wagner in St. James.

There will be games and prizes for everyone to take a try at. In the hall, there will be sales booths and a lunch counter. Anyone wanting a booth and to help make this a big success, contact Gladys Schnaudigel, Alvin LaFreniere or Marge Wagner. The income from this affair is for the benefit of the Civic Association.

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES: Aside from their usual routines the students of Beaver Island School, have been active in other fields also.

Seniors Gary Earley, Joe McDonough, Roberta Palmer and Dennis Wagner spent a day and night in Charlevoix, the latter part of March, observing Government Day. The trip alone plus learning how a moderately sized city functions, was enjoyed by all.

For over 21 days, all of the school waited patiently for four chicken eggs to hatch in their new incubator. When nothing happened, the problem was presented to Russ Green, who had furnished the eggs. It seems Russ has a lazy rooster, but a short while later, he presented them with four more eggs that he felt certain would produce results. After another 21 days, sure enough, two of the eggs produced chicks. When this event occurred, Sister Rita had some difficulty getting students and staff alike, back on routine schedule for they all felt like proud parents after the 42 day ordeal.

With early spring on it's way, another project was launched, this being the manufacturing of maple syrup. Several big maples around the school were tapped and about 85 gallons of sap was collected. The boys

obtained a huge copper kettle and set it up on the school playground. With swing shifts organized, the fire under the kettle was kept going until they had produced about three and a half gallons of syrup, much to the delight of those involved in the project.

HORIZONS UNLIMITED: Perhaps problems on the island seem like little ones, compared to those being faced in the cities through out the nation but we have them non-the-less.

It seems the whole country has been shaken to the very foundation, in the wake of events, this past month, making a great many people take stock of their own positions. The hate, bigotry and grasping selfishness, that has effected us all, is really what has been taught us down through generations. The very young know nothing of these traits, nor do they even recognize the difference in skin color, until they are taught. The guidelines to follow are as old as time and as easy to follow as breathing itself. These lines are our Local, State, and Federal laws and the Commandments of God. Each and everyone is only to help and protect us from self destruction. Education and understanding is The Key! Thus --- our problem.

We on the Island, are blessed with dedicated teachers in our school, yet our youngsters are truly being cheated out of a liberal education. Our numbers and economic situation is our biggest stumbling block. The island education system is limited to only the basic needs, thus leaving out social activities, athletics, home economics and arts and crafts. Our seniors, who have managed to get this far without any of these more stimulating aspects of school, are forced out into the world of higher education with a definite lack of a liberal education.

On different occasions, boys and girls clubs and later, a Youth Center, have been organized. These efforts are met with enthusiasm by the youngsters and with generous donations of funds by the adults, but the stopping force of each effort is the lack of time that the adults want to spend on it. What is desperately needed here, is a well founded, substantial Youth program, as a part of the school and the community as a whole. This means a large building that would include a gymnasium, swimming pool, wood working shop and enough space left over to house an area for crafts and Home Economics. Economically speaking, this is impossible for an area such as ours. The Community could furnish the land, staff and maintenance but the rest must come from outside. Somewhere, there must be funds available for a project such as this. Any one who might know the proper steps to take along this line, please drop a line to the "Beaver Beacon" and we will get this project in high gear.

HOSPITAL NOTES: Perry Crawford was a patient in Little Traverse Hospital in Petoskey this past week.

Archie Minor, fell while painting his ship in Duluth, Minn. and crushed his angle plus other bruises. He is a patient in St. Marys Hospital Room 271, Duluth, Minnesota 88500.

Warren Townsend is a patient in Bloggett Hospital in Grand Rapids, Michigan 49500, where he had his leg amputated this past week. We know he would enjoy hearing from his friends.

Rogers Carlisle is a patient in Little Traverse Hospital in Petoskey, Michigan.

BIDS WANTED: The Convent Building Fund Committee is asking builders desiring to bid on the new Convent to communicate with the committee at an early date.

The Beaver Island Christian Church would like to offer for sealed bids one Hammond Spinnet Electric Chord Organ, in excellent condition. Minimum accepted bid to be \$395.00. Original cost \$1,200.00. Sealed bids to be sent to the Beaver Island Christian Church, Attn, Organ Bid, St. James, Michigan 49782, before April 30th. We reserve the right to reject any and all bids.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARTIES: This is a late report on the St. Patrick's Day parties.

Chicago - This party was attended by Mr. and Mrs. Jewell Gillespie with their children, Robert and Mary, Mike and Kath Crawford, Ron Wojan and Alvin LaFreniere from the Island.

Father Bernard Scheid donated the hall at St. Kevin's Church for the party. A huge crowd attended this party and a wonderful time was had by all.

St. James - The Holy Cross Hall was the location of the Annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner.

Visitors to the Island who attended the dinner were Irvin Grabau, Mr. and Mrs. Bucky Vreeland, Mike Gallagher and friend, Mr. and Mrs. Herb Moore, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Chambers, Dr. Christie, Mary Simon, Walker Hill, Mr. and Mrs. Perry Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Barry Wood, and Mr. and Mrs. Bud Keie.

The total proceeds for the party was \$99.52 and a grand time was had by all attending.

SERVICEMEN'S NEWS: We have a new address for Paul LaFreniere.

E 2 Paul V. LaFreniere U S 549-723-95
Hq. Det. 1st AIT Bde
Fort Dix, New Jersey 08640

Ernie Martin, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Martin, is home on leave until April 28th.

BEAVER ISLANDER ARRIVES: On Thursday April 11th the Beaver Islander returned to Beaver Island to begin the 1968 season.

It was well loaded with people returning home for the summer, some visiting for the Easter week-end and tons of supplies.

So that you may all become familiar with the new schedule for 1968, we are enclosing one with this Beaver Beacon. Why not come up and visit the Island soon.

MONTGOMERY WARD RETURNS: Again this year Montgomery Ward of Petoskey sent representatives to the Island to take orders from the residents. A team of three, Mary Fleshman, Bob West and Ivan Nestle held the sale at the Beaver Tail Resturant. A pair of bicycles were given away - 1 boys bike and 1 girls bike. The happy winners were Angie Wojan and Steve Connaghan. Our Congratulations to the winners and Thank You, Montgomery Ward.

EASTER EGG HUNT: At 11:30 a.m. on Easter Sunday an Easter Egg Hunt was held on the grounds of the Beaver Island Christian Church. Approximately twenty children turned out for the Hunt and every child found some eggs.

Rain almost postponed the Hunt but fortunately the rain drops held off until all the eggs were gathered. An exciting time was had by all, children and adults watching, and next year another Easter Egg Hunt is planned.

EX-SUMMER RESIDENT RECEIVES L.B.J. APPOINTMENT: President Johnson announced his appointment of Hugh L. Ray of Chicago, director of the Sears, Roebuck and Company merchandise development and testing laboratory, as a member of the new National Commission on Product Safety. The seven-member commission will conduct a two-year study of the scope and effectiveness of laws to protect consumers from hazardous household appliances and other home products.

Hugh spent many summers on the Island during his boyhood as his parents owned a summer home here. Now each summer, he and his wife stop by the Island in their yacht to visit with their Island friends.

FROM THE MAIL BAG: The Beaver Beacon received the following letter from Dr. Nels P. Sorensen, Sr. of Greenville, Michigan.

"For over 20 years I have been coming to Beaver Island so that I feel I am as much of a resident as some of you old timers. My heart, my thoughts and my ambitions have always been for the welfare of this beautiful island. I have noted the decline of lumbering, farming and fishing to a point where they can no longer support the island. One industry, on which it can depend, is tourism. One of the main attractions for tourists these days is a golf course. With TV publicizing golf as much as it has in the past few years, it has become one of our country's leading sports. In Florida, where tourism is heavy, all golf courses are over-crowded. The small county in which I live has four courses which are all crowded from spring to fall.

Golf is a game which can be played by all ages and is highly recommended by physicians. I never was much of a golfer, but I find it a wonderful recreation whereby I can get necessary exercise in the out of doors. What does all this lead to? That it behooves all islanders and property owners on the island to get behind an effort to prevent the beginning of a fine golf course from being lost. I have pledged my support and I hope all Beaver Islanders, both year-round residents and vacationers, as well as other interested people will do the same.

From a staunch worker for the betterment of a truly Emerald Isle, "

PARTY LINE: A unique way of solving the transportation and safety problems of a group of ex-islander party goers, was adopted in Chicago this past month. A sizeable group assembled at Madonna McCafferty's home, in South Chicago and decided to have a party at Mary Margaret (Green) Braden's home, in Glenview, on the North side of Chicago. To avoid the problem fighting traffic and to eliminate the danger of driving, after an evening of celebrating, a bus was chartered. A great time was had by all except, perhaps, the bus driver.

NOTICE: Dr. N. P. Sorensen, Jr., D.D.S. will be on the Island during the month of July. He will be available for anyone needing dental work.

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FOR SALE: 100 foot frontage lots on Lake Michigan. Contact Ed Howland St. James, Michigan 49782.

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