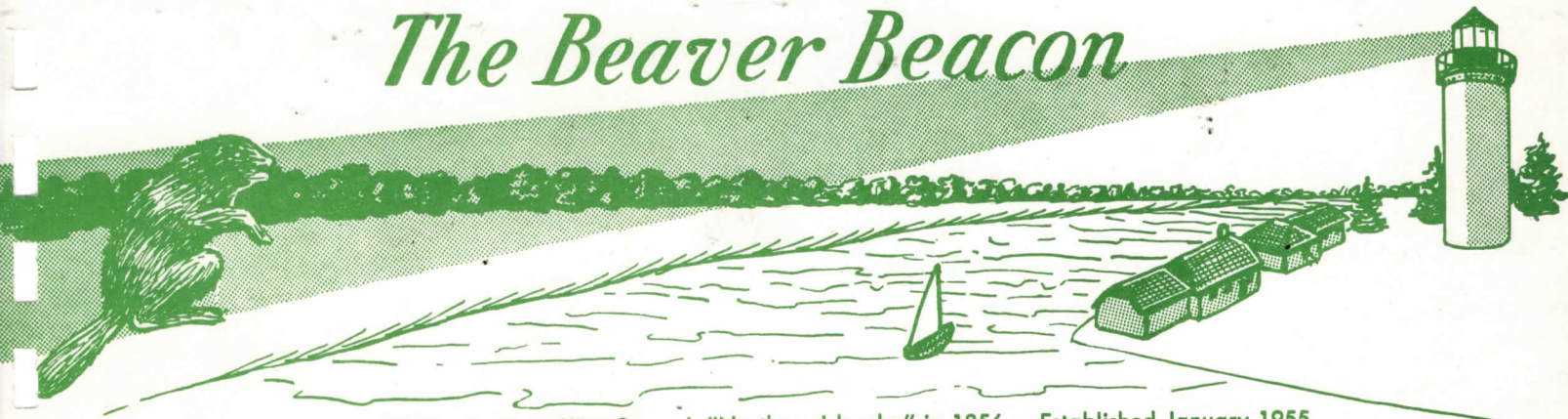


# The Beaver Beacon



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

January 1967

Snow, snow, snow, it just keeps coming. The Island is truly a winter wonderland, cloaked in a heavy blanket of white, furnishing the kids a perfect base for sled coasting and skiing. With some shoveling, the ice on the harbor provides a perfect rink for skating.

**WEATHER:** The December weather report as reported by Fire Officer Bill Wagner.

December weather for the most part was cold and snowy. The highest temperature of 49 degrees occurred on the 8th and the low, of 7 degrees, on the night of the 2nd. The average high temperature was 31.6 degrees and the average low temperature was 20.7 degrees.  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an inch of rain fell on the 6th, 7th and 8th, and then it turned cold again. Total snowfall for the month was 7.5 inches. Total precipitation for the month was 1.53 inches.  $10\frac{1}{2}$  inches of snow on the ground on the first of the month melted down to  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches by the end of the month.

Those interested in the Island hunting stories should make a point of picking up February's issue of "Sports Illustrated". The article describes Island coyote and rabbit hunting in mid-winter.

**Deer Report** - In 1927 and 1928 deer were released on 55 square mile Beaver Island located in northern Lake Michigan. The season was closed until 1938. Between 1938 and 1957, when antlerless seasons started, the number of hunters per square mile varied between two and five. Since 1957 it has increased to the record high of 531 hunters in 1966. This is still less than 10 hunters per square mile. Percentage hunting success has been good to excellent since antlerless seasons started in 1957. Winter deer range on the island is becoming badly browsed, and biological data from deer examined during the past two seasons indicate the physical condition of the herd is probably starting to go down hill

A total of 531 hunters took 147 deer on Beaver Island this year for a hunter success of 27.7 percent. Both the kill and success were up slightly over last year. Poor hunting weather probably affected the total kill, only the first 3 days were decent. For the next 5 days it rained and this was followed by a snow storm and high winds that kept drifting the roads closed. Access to the south half of the island was practically stopped for the rest of the season.

Biological data collected during this season indicate average weights and antler development of bucks have declined over the past few years. A few sub legal (less than 3" antlers) yearling bucks have been taken over the past years, even in years when the average weights of year and a half old bucks have not been bad. A partial explanation for this may be that the fawning period is drawn out and late fawns are being dropped well into July. However, the major factor contributing to average weights and antler development declines must be poorer food conditions. Cedar is all but gone from the available winter foods and the islands deer yards are looking more like those browsed out swamps on the mainland.

During the ten years with antlerless seasons more than twice as many hunters, as is the ten years of bucks only hunting (1947 - 1956), took more than 1.7 times as many bucks and close to four times as many total deer. Since 1958 the number of antlerless permits available to Beaver Island hunters has exceeded the number of hunters. For all practical purposes these seasons on Beaver with the exception of 1961 when only bucks were legal, have been any deer seasons. But in spite of this, the winter range is becoming badly overbrowsed and the physical condition of the herd may be starting down hill.

Turkeys - A large flock of Turkeys were sighted down by the Harbor View and Isle Haven Motels on December 31st. Before they flew away, many people had the opportunity to take pictures of the flock.

ISLANDER EARNS REST: With the end of the Holiday season came the last trip of the year for the Beaver Islander. Bucking heavy seas and ice conditions, her last trip was a rough one, ending the busiest season yet. Early in the spring, the Islander will go into the shipyard, at Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, for minor modifications and bottom painting.

FROM OUR MAILBAG - NEWS FROM ARIZONA: News has been received from Bob Pischner for an address change:

Sgt. Robert A. Pischner  
U S 56379694  
1st AUN BN Co A 1st Inf. Div.  
A.P.O. San Francisco, Calif. 96345

Hurry home, Bob! We miss you.

Helen Pischner has arrived at her home in Arizona after a five week stay with Mr. and Mrs. LaDonis Mooney and their family in Detroit. Mr. Mooney was in the hospital but at the last notice seems to be doing much better.

Mr. and Mrs. Julias Allers spent the holidays in Tucson, Arizona with their daughter and her family, Mr. and Mrs. Bob LeBaron.

We are sorry for the delay in announcing the arrival of Mr. Matt Melville in Mesa, Arizona. He arrived here in September and is very much at home.

Mr. and Mrs. John Gillespie recently visited their son and his family in California. On their way back they stopped in Las Vegas. They commend this trip to everyone.

HOME FOR CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S: Many Island families had their families home for the holidays. Bill Gillespie visited his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jewell Gillespie; Ed Wojan visited his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Wojan; Mike Fogg, son of Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Fogg, came home and the John A. Gallagher's had their sons, Ronald and Arthur, and their daughter and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. Don Heileg, visit them. Also, visiting during the holidays were the Bernard McCafferty family, Bussy & Alberta LaFreniere, June Quarterman, Tom Elms, Charlie Earley and his daughter, Bruce McDonough, Loretta and Glenn LaFreniere, Mr. and Mrs. Harold (Rosemary Nackerman) Smith, Jack Cull and his two nieces, Susan and Patricia Lockton, Mrs. James (Margaret Ann LaFreniere) Plemons, Margaret and Carol O'Donnell, Mr. and Mrs. Gus (Beverly O'Donnell) Walgres, Ronnie O'Donnell, Joe LaFreniere, Colleen and Jack Volk, Joe Evans, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Evans, John Adams and sons, Owen Boyle, Marie Gauthier, Kay Tyghe, Mark Hagerity and Mr. and Mrs. Jack Dykstra and family and Butch Left. Quite a gang! We do hope we haven't left anyone out and we hope you all come back next year.

BIRTHS: Mr. and Mrs. Gabe Campbell, of Howell, Michigan, are the parents of a daughter, Kathleen Gabrielle, born on December 12th. The Willard Pischners of Charlevoix are the proud grandparents.

AWAY FOR CHRISTMAS: The following people spent Christmas visiting their families on the mainland. Mr. and Mrs. Rogers Carlisle; Mr. and Mrs. Duane Newstead and son; Mr. Lawrence Malloy and Dr. and Mrs. H. B. Haynes.

HOSPITAL NOTES: Timmy McDonough, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bud McDonough, has returned to school following an emergency appendectomy during the Christmas holidays. He was rushed to Charlevoix Hospital, where he was operated on December 30th.

Ed Howland has returned from a Bay City Hospital where he spent two days for x-rays and examinations.

Sister M. Wilma, O.P., our 1st thru 4th grade teacher, is recuperating in Grand Rapids following an operation during the holidays. We know many would like to send her a card so here is the address:

Sister M. Wilma, O.P.  
2025 Fulton Street  
Grand Rapids, Mich. 49503

WELCOME: At this time we would like to say welcome to Sister M. Paula, O.P., who is replacing Sister M. Wilma, O.P., while she is away. Sister M. Paula, O.P. is very familiar with the Island, as she taught some years ago on Beaver Island.

ALTAR SOCIETY: The Holy Cross Altar Society elected new officers on January 10th and following is the new slate of officers.

President -	Mrs. Skip McDonough
Vice-President -	Loy Malloy
Secretary -	Mrs. Marie Reigle
Treasurer -	Mrs. Nancy Martin

Congratualations to you all.

GONE FOR THE WINTER: We are now giving you the last list of Islander's to leave for the winter. Stanley Floyd, Mrs. Elizabeth Gallagher and Mr. and Mrs. John A. Gallagher.

WINS AGAIN: The luckiest family on the Island is the Malloy family. Again they came up the winner and this time Bob Malloy won the Hi-Fi that the Junior Class gave away. In the past the Malloy's have won a television set and a polaroid camera. Congratulations, Bob and we are all happy for the Malloys even tho they do get kidded.

BUFFET SUPPER: On Saturday, January 14th, the Ladies of Beaver Island held a Buffet Supper at the Beaver Island School in the new Multi-purpose room. The proceeds of the dinner went to the Convent Fund Drive. A movie was shown following the dinner and the grand total for the evening was \$137.55. This brings the grand total for the Convent Building Fund to approximately \$18,000.00.

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## BEAVER TALES

### Part I

Lying just west of Beaver Island, is High Island, so named for its high timbered dunes along its western shore. Perhaps only a third as large as Beaver, it possesses an abundance of rare natural beauty and a history nearly as unique as its mother island. Lacking a protected natural harbor, High Island never enjoyed continued habitation, leaving gaps in its recorded past.

We will turn back the pages of history a relatively few years, long after the Strang era and begin about the year 1920.

Isolated islands must have held a fascination for bearded prophets, as did Beaver Island, for King Strang in 1846; for in 1920 "King Ben" sought High Island as an investment in seclusion and virgin timber.

Born in the hills of Kentucky, in March of 1861, of poor parents, Ben Purnell, with little formal schooling, became an astute and fiery orator. In the early 1900's, with his wife Mary, Ben Purnell traveled as an itinerant preacher, before becoming attached to a House of Israel group in Detroit.

Leaving the Detroit group, after it's leader, Mike (Prince Michael) Mills had difficulty with police over a morals charge, the ambitious young leader made his way through Ohio and Indiana to Benton Harbor, where he set himself up as Seventh Messenger and head of the House of David in 1905.

A colorful character, with flaming red beard and shoulder length hair, Ben Purnell was accumulating a large number of followers, through his dynamic oratory. Soon known to the world as "King Ben", he led his group to prosperity. House of David members worked hard in all the trades and were provided food, clothing and shelter on a modest level, with the rest going to King Ben, as was the custom of the sect. Some

of those joining were people of considerable means and cult holdings at one time reportably included oil wells in Texas. House of David investments were made with care and varied from small business to Benton Harbor's trolley car system and included the purchase of a good share of High Island from the U. S. government.

King Ben decided to have his summer castle built on High Island, and in 1920 a small migration to High Island began. A large eight sided building was erected at the north-east end of the island, to serve as the King's Castle. Many log houses were soon under construction plus a good sized sawmill. Being experts at agriculture, fertal gardens were soon yeilding bumper crops of potatoes, cabbage and other vegetables. The Israelites, as they were known, were friendly hard working people and their relationship with both the Indian residents on High Island and the Irish of Beaver was good, promoting a healthy trade of produce and goods.

Rumor has it written in the pages of the past, that the island served as sort of a penal colony for members who disobeyed their leader, yet older residents of Beaver Island, who remember this era, don't recall the Israelites as being forced to stay on High Island, even though some found the life a hard one.

Transportation from Benton Harbor to High Island was furnished by the Israelites own vessels, the "Mary Belle" and the "Rising Sun", carrying supplies and passengers and their own trading goods. Also included in their fleet, was the little freight boat, the "High Islander", that soon became a familiar sight in the harbor of St. James, loaded with fresh vegetables and boxes of fresh picked berries. There was always a great demand for their produce and trading was brisk. To Beaver Island visitors it was a strange sight to see men with flowing beards and their long hair tucked under their hats while the younger boys had their hair in a single braid down their backs.

High Island was becoming quite a little community, including a temple for the Israelites and a Catholic Church for the Indians, a post office, school, shops and a busy sawmail, along with the growing number of new dwellings.

(Part II of this Beaver Tale will be continued in next month's Beacon)

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