

# The Beaver Beacon



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

January 1969

It seems not so long ago people would often reflect back to "old fashioned winter's", telling of snow covering fences and having to dig their way out of their homes. If this is true, certainly, history has a way of repeating itself. This being early in the winter season, the snowbanks are already as high as they usually get at the peak of winter. Other than delayed mail flights and transportation to and from the Island, activities are far from being dampened.

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

Average high temperatures 32.2 degrees.  
High daytime temperatures 48 degrees on the 12th.  
Low daytime temperature 20 degrees on the 31st.  
Average low temperature 21 degrees.  
Low nighttime temperature .9 degrees, on the 31st.  
Snow fell on 21 days of the month.  
Total snowfall for the month 29.5 inches.  
Snow depth on the ground at the end of the month 24 inches.  
Total precipitation 2.62 inches.

**NEW YEAR WELCOMED:** In traditional manner, the year of 1969 was given an enthusiastic welcome by Island residents and guests at the Shamrock. Dancing and merriment reigned supreme as the New Year came into being.

**SNOWBOUND:** With over a week of almost constant blizzard, some Island residents were confronted with the problem of being temporarily snowbound. Frank and Gladys Schnaudigel found themselves in this position with four foot drifts blocking their way to the main road, about 200 yards away. Some supplies were delivered by snowmobile during their entrapment of three days. Perhaps the most frustrating thing in a case like this is having a lack of pinocle players. Rogers and Jo Carlisle came to the rescue in this regard. Donning snowshoes, that Jo had never had on before, and disregarding the fact they were in their early 70's they made their way over the drifts, to Frank and Gladys's for an evening of card playing.

**SNOW FUN:** The first snowmobile safari of the season took place on Friday, the thrid of January. Leading the group was Archie LaFreniere who broke trail. Following up, was John and Lorene Adams, Bill and Marge Wagner, Bud McDonough and his sister, Vera Wojan, (Walt had a cold) and Phil and Lillian Gregg. Going onto the ice at the Erin Motel, the caravan followed the shore southward all the way to Bud's

cabin in Big Sand Bay. A light lunch and refreshments were consumed while feet and hands were warmed up before heading back by way of the East Side Road. A stop was made at Annand's where Steve Naret and his two sons, from East Lansing, were enjoying a winter vacation. This trio joined the caravan for the remainder of the trip and one stop was made at the Circle.M before returning to St. James. A great time was had by all.

A more recent trip was made by a similar group on the 14th. The function of this one was to pay a surprise visit to Fritz and Anna Steinbach, who were on vacation at their cabin in Sand Bay. This group was made up of Bud and Skip McDonough, Russ and Joy Green, Walt and Vera Wojan, Bill and Marge Wagner, Bing and Madonna McCafferty, Pete and Bea Underwood and Phil and Lil Gregg. This was a nighttime safari and a real surprise to the Steinbach's. It was a beautiful clear winter night and a great time was had by all. Who says Michigan winter's are bad?

**SISTER'S MOVE:** The long awaited day arrived January 15th, that the Dominican Sister's moved into the new Convent. With several trucks and a score of volunteers the task was accomplished in short order. Needless to say, the Sisters are delighted with their new home.

**SHANTIES OUT:** As soon as the harbor ice became thick enough, the fishing shanties quickly appeared. So far however, the perch haven't been too cooperative. Now that Perry Gatliff is back from a trip downstate, perhaps he can lure them in for he seems to have special talents in this regard. Of course, along with it goes an infinite amount of patience.

**TURKEY TRACKS:** Whether or not their numbers are great or not, there are a lot of turkey tracks throughout the Island. Karl Keubler is back at his winter task of making sure that they are all fed. One ominous sign in the snow are many tracks of coyote also. While the snow is deep and fluffy, the coyote has a hard time of it but once it crusts over, deer, rabbits and turkeys are easy prey to the cunning hunter.

**ISLAND FRIEND PASSES:** It is rather ironic with the recent passing of Lin Rountree at this time, for his efforts in making the Sister's Convent a reality, were outstanding.

Lin and his wife, Virginia, moved to the Island in 1961, after purchasing the Hoffman house and remodeling it. His love for the Island and it's welfare were always uppermost in his mind. He volunteered many hours working for the benefit of the Museum in preserving historic values of the Island.

His love of children was evidenced by his inexhaustable supply of lollipops that became a tradition of giving them out to the children.

Lingard Tindale Rountree, 86, of Beaver Island passed away Jan. 11th, 1969. A resident of Chicago, Illinois and Dune Acres, Indiana before his retirement, Mr. Rountree was President of Randolph Box and Label Company, 831 W. Van Buren St., Chicago and a former Vice-Commodor of the Chicago Yacht Club.

Mr. Rountree leaves his widow, Virginia Provancher Rountree, one daughter, Constance Rountree Bennett of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, four grandchildren, George R. Bennett III and John Lingard Bennett both of

Chesterton, Indiana; Mrs. Constance B. Woelfel of Wichita, Kansas and Mrs. Deborah B. Wieggen of Park Forest, Illinois and six great-grandchildren. He also leaves four sisters; Mrs. Marion Reinhart of Blue Island, Illinois, Mrs. Helen Beaumont of Santa Barbara, California, Mrs. Mable Bennett of Denver, Colorado and Mrs. Anna Murphy of Wilmette, Illinois.

Services were held on Beaver Island at the Rountree's residence Jan. 14th.

Interment was in Holy Cross Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, contributions to the Beaver Island Convent Building Fund, St. James, Michigan, would be appreciated.

**ARCHIE MINOR RETURNS:** After nine months in the Marine Hospital in Detroit, recuperating from a serious accident aboard the U. S. Steel Corporation's vessel, the D. G. Kerr, Archie has finally returned to the Island with his wife, Mary. A little shakey after his long ordeal, but eager to get back to his favorite winter pasttime of rabbit hunting, he will soon be back in top shape again. All of us on the Island extend a hearty welcome home to Archie.

**NEW ARRIVALS:** After retiring from Oldsmobile at the end of 1968, Sheldon and Bea Parker moved up to the Island from St. Johns, for the winter, to their home at Font Lake. Having spent parts of many summers and never missing a deer season, they are enjoying the Island winter.

**SERVICEMEN'S NEWS:** We have a new address for Ernie Martin, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Martin:

SP/4 Francis E. Martin  
Town and Country Motel  
123 Crystal Park Rd.,  
Manitou Springs, Colo. 80829

Paul LaFreniere is home on a 15 day leave from Fort Carson, Colo. Paul is the son of Vernon LaFreniere.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Nackerman received word from their daughter, Barbara that their oldest grandson, James Huston, suffered a slight knee injury when the U.S.S. Enterprise had the explosions. He was hit in the knee but not seriously enough to be put off of duty so continued to help clean up the decks.

**OBITUARIES:** MARY DAVIS, 46, wife of Edward J. Davis of Sanduskey, Ohio, passed away on Sunday, December 22nd in the Memorial Hospital after an illness of several years.

Surviving besides her widower are a son, S-Sgt. Edward J. II, on leave from Vietnam; a daughter, Mrs. Douglas Straight, Newark; and three grandchildren. She is also survived by her parents and two sisters. Private funeral services were held December 24th at the Frey Funeral Home, with the Rev. G. Luther Mann, Officiating. Burial was in Restlawn Memorial Park.

At the family request contributions, if desired, may be made to the First Congregational Church organ fund.

PAUL P. (DANNY) GATLIFF, 49, passed away January 4th in Detroit. He was born December 28, 1919 on Beaver Island.

Burial was in Detroit, Michigan. He is survived by his wife the former Catherine (Georgie) Connaghan; six children, Linda, Gail, Jinny, Carol, Tony and Perry; his mother, Mrs. Mary Gatliff; eight sisters and three brothers.

JOSEPH SCHMIDT, passed away on January 3rd in Pontiac, Michigan. Burial will be on Beaver Island in the spring. He is survived by one sister, Mrs. Elsie O'Donnell and one brother, William Schmidt.

MRS. CEIL GALLAGHER, wife of the late Captain Con Gallagher of Green Bay, Wisconsin, passed away January 13th. She is survived by two sons and a daughter and nine grandchildren. Mrs. Florence Burke is a cousin.

DON McCAULEY passed away on December 10th in San Diego, California. He was the son of Capt. Conn and Hannah McCauley. He was born on Beaver Island and has been a sailor on the Great Lakes. Surviving are a niece and nephew. Mrs. Mary "Bert" McDonough is a cousin.

WEDDINGS: On Saturday, December 28th at St. Simon's Church in Ludington, Michigan, Miss Barbara Anne Gebott became the bride of Mr. Thomas Lee Elms, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Elms former Island residents. The reception was held at the American Legion Hall in Ludington. Tom's brother Rick, who is stationed in Thailand at an Air Force Base, was able to make it home for Christmas and to be attendant for his brother due to a lucky break in getting a hop on the Bob Hope plane returning to the U.S.A. Attending the wedding from the Island were Mr. and Mrs. Russell Green, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Wojan, Mr. and Mrs. Bud McDonough, Mr. Joseph "Buzzy" LaFreniere and Archie LaFreniere.

COLLEGE NEWS: The following students returned to their homes for the Christmas Holidays: Bill Gillespie, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jewell Gillespie, Gary Earley, grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Earley, Phyllis Gregg, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Philip Gregg, Ed Wojan, son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Wojan and Joe McDonough, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence McDonough.

Douglas Southern, who graduated from Beaver Island High School in December is now a student at Ferris in Big Rapids. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Bob Southern.

CHRISTMAS VISITORS: The following people returned to the Island for the Holidays. Loretta and Sandy LaFreniere, Mr. and Mrs. John Adams and family, Buzzy and Alberta LaFreniere, Tom and Eileen (Gatliff) Flynn and two daughters from Torrance, Calif., Joe Evans, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Dykstra and family, Donna McCafferty, Dave and Helen Pike and Don and Mary (Gallagher) Heileg and family.

ALTAR SOCIETY: The Holy Cross Altar Society held their annual election of officers on January 13th. Elected to office were: Rose Connaghan, President; Joy Green, Vice-President; Madonna McCafferty, Secretary and Skip McDonough, Treasurer.

THANK YOU: Mrs. Lawrence McDonough wishes to thank all the Islander's for the wonderful surprise Birthday Party they gave her on December 19th.

BEAVER ISLAND CIVIC ASSOCIATION ELECTION: The annual election was held on January 9th and the following people were elected to office. President - Alvin LaFreniere; Vice-President - Gerry LaFreniere; Secretary - Lillian Gregg and Treasurer - Joy Green. The rest of the Board members are: Jean LaFreniere, Loy Malloy, Mary Minor, Vera Wojan and Bud McDonough. Committee Chairmen have not been announced as yet.

PARTIES: LaFreniere Open-House: On New Year's Eve Mr. and Mrs. Joseph (Buzzy) LaFreniere held an Open House from 7:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. in their new home.

Adam's Open House: Mr. and Mrs. John Adams held an Open House at their cottage on the afternoon of January 1st. One added feature to this Open House was that all guests were transported by snowmobile to the house, as there was huge area to cross, full of snow, between the road and their house.

LaFreniere Open House: On January 3rd a surprise Open House was held for Gerry and Carol LaFreniere in their new home.

SPRING IS HERE???? With all the cold weather and snow we have had so far it is hard to believe but Milt Bennett presented the Editor's with a bouquet of Pussy Willows last week. They are just coming out and sure did make us think of spring. Although he wouldn't tell us where he found them, he did say that he saw an Otter while he was on the trip.

HOSPITAL NOTES: Gerry Lockwood is recuperating at her home at 8129 Lincoln Blvd., Indianapolis, Ind. 46240, following surgery.

Mrs. James (Billie) Evans is a patient in Little Traverse Hospital in Petoskey.

Eileen Martin is a patient in Little Traverse Hospital, Petoskey.

Mary Green, who has been a patient in the Charlevoix Hospital, has been released and is now in Grandvue Medical Facility in East Jordan.

Gilbert Bailey is recuperating at home from a broken collarbone, which he suffered in a fall last week.

Little Michelle LaFreniere, daughter of Gerry and Carol LaFreniere, is also recuperating from a broken collarbone which she received when she fell in their home.

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