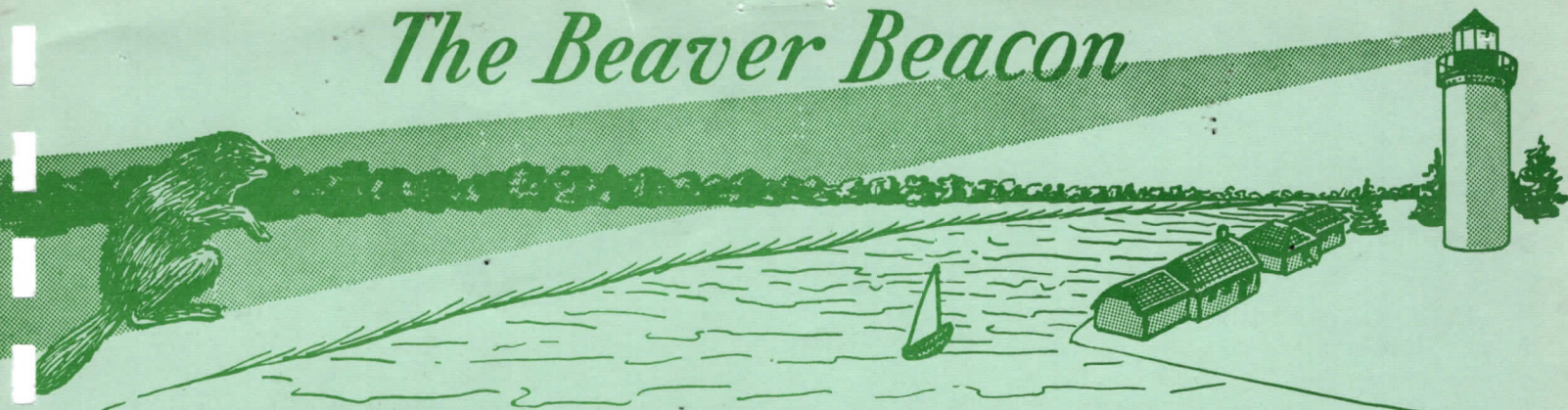


The Beaver Beacon



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

March 1967

The lion of March is slowly transforming into a pussy cat as the bite of winter eases its grip on the island. Under all of that snow, the ferns and spring flowers are waiting to display their splendor in announcing the beginning of another season.

PARTY LINE FIRE: How do you call for fire fighters when the switchboard is burning? This was the problem faced on the night of the 11th of March, when the Telephone Company Office Building caught fire. By the time the fire was finally extinguished, the telephone equipment was completely destroyed and communication to and from the Island was severed with the exception of the Conservation Department radio and Dick LaFreniere's aircraft unicom. Sunday morning a temporary portable phone was installed at LaFreniere's store. Phone service will be resumed as soon as new equipment can be installed in the old kitchen of Holy Cross Hall. Origin of the fire has yet to be determined.

WEATHER: Beaver Island weather as recorded by Fire Officer Bill Wagner.

February was cold and snowy for most of the month. Five inches of snow laid on the ground on February 1st and at the end of the month the average was 24 inches. Cold temperatures held thru out the month with the high of 36 degrees falling on the 10th and 14th. The low temperature of 10 below fell on the night of the 6th and 7th. Average high temperature for the month was a cool 22.4 and the average low as a cooler 7.5 degrees. There was 22.5 inches of snowfall for the month with a trace of snow falling on 6 days. Snow fell on 14 of the 28 days.

GAME NEWS: This is the quiet season after the end of the small game season. Rabbit hunting was much less than spectacular this year, yet those that spent much time at it had fair results.

Perch fishing in the harbor has been improving rapidly and some fine catches have been made this winter. It can be safely said that Perry Gatliff is the undisputed perch fishing champ, with Duane Newstead coming up close behind. Hopes are high that we may have a perch run this spring, after the ice goes out. It has been over eight years since the last good run and is a much missed sport.

DINNER FOR ST. PADDY: The doors of the Holy Cross Hall were opened on the 19th of March, emitting the aroma of roast turkey, with a wide assortment of many other good things to eat. The Holy Cross Altar Society women were at their usual best at producing a bountiful table

of food for the many patrons.

A program put on by the children of the Beaver Island School was enjoyed by all. Only one flaw in the whole production was encountered when the furnace ran out of fuel oil and the filler pipe, buried under ice and snow, took some time to locate. Just before reaching the point of freezing, the heat came on and all went well to the end. Mr. Charles Early won the portable Radio given away at the dinner. The total proceeds for the evening was \$225.00. After expenses were deducted the Convent Fund received \$70.00 from the radio and the Altar Society received \$90.00 for the busy day.

CHICAGO PARTY: At this time the only report we have had from Chicago is that everyone had a grand time. Without telephones, we are having difficulty receiving news of the party. Islanders who planned on attending the Party were Rita and Jewell Gillespie, Bob Malloy, Matt Melville, Mary and Perry Gatliff and Robert Gillespie. We'll have a full report in next months Beacon.

LOST & FOUND: After making arrangements to leave their little house dog with Dick LaFreniere, James and Billy Evans took off in their plane for a few days trip down state. The dog, not being used to the new surroundings took off for parts unknown. A search party was deployed, made up of many of the island children and some of the adults, but -- to no avail. Hopes dimmed as darkness fell, along with the thermometer, for three consecutive nights. For a little dog well up in years and not being used to the outdoors, it looked pretty hopeless. Upon returning to the Island, Mr. and Mrs. Evans decided to hike the beach toward town, from their home at Sand Bay. As luck would have it, they discovered the dog, scared, cold and hungry, curled up under a juniper bush, a little more than a mile from home.

ENGAGED: Mr. and Mrs. Henry O. Stoltz announce the engagement of their daughter Margaret Dougherty to Lt. Thomas N. Gallagher, son of Mr. and Mrs. Norbert M. Gallagher of Rochester, Indiana, on January First.

WEDDINGS: Mrs. Marilyn Newell Rennie and Mr. Fred Moellendick Borwell announce their marriage on Saturday, the twenty-first of January in Flossmoor, Illinois.

Adams - Huard: On Saturday, February 4, 1967, Miss Carol Adams, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Adams, of Mt. Pleasant, Michigan, became th bride of Mr. Gary "Dock" Huard, of Mt. Pleasant. The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Fay, of Memphis, Michigan, and spent the last four summers on the Island working for Beaver Haven. A reception was held in Mt. Pleasant immediately following the wedding in Mt Pleasant Sacred Heart Church and a second reception was held in Memphis, Michigan on Sunday, February 5th. On added note is that Mr. and Mrs. Gary "Dock" will be on Beaver Island this summer and are planning on building a summer cottage here.

HOSPITAL NOTES: Mrs. Bernard (Marge) Wagner returned to the Island on Saturday, March 18th, following surgery in Little Traverse Hospital.

Mrs. Roland J. (Ethel) McCann is recuperating at her home following sugery. Her address is 9001 S. Cicero Ave., Box 234, Oak Lawn, Ill. 60456.

Donna Ricksgers, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Francis Ricksgers, is recuperating at home following surgery in a Detroit hospital.

Mrs. Frank (Nellie) O'Donnell is a patient in the Charlevoix Hospital. Nellie fell in her home and has a fractured rib.

AWAY TO SCHOOL: Gary McDonough, son of Capt. and Mrs. Lawrence McDonough, has arrived at Ingelwood, California and is enrolled in Electronic Engineering at Northrop Institute of Technology, 1155 W. Arbor Vital Street, Inglewood, California 90306.

CONGRATULATIONS: Michael Crawford, son of Mr. and Mrs. Perry Crawford, won a Philco Transistor Radio in the Ford Motor Company's "Safe Driving Incentive Program for Young Americans".

OBITUARIES: Our condolences to the following families.

Thomas "Red Hughie" Boyle, of Chicago, passed away on March 10th following a long illness. He is survived by his wife, Catherine; one son and a sister, Mary Greene; two grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

Mrs. Joan (nee Miller) Tiggelman, aged 47 of Belleair Beach, Fla., passed away unexpectedly Friday, March 10th, in Florida. She is survived by her husband, Frank. One stepdaughter, Mrs. David (Sharon) Marckini of St. Clair Shores, Michigan; two sisters, Mrs. Arlie (Beverly) Albrecht of Grand Rapids, and Mrs. Joseph (Skip) McDonough of Beaver Island.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, March 14th, at the VanStrien-Alman Mortuary, with Rev. Edwin J. Arnold of the 2nd Congregational Church officiating. Interment in the Restlawn Cemetery.

Archie James Washegesic, 53, of Charlevoix, was a victim of a hit and run accident on March 10th.

Funeral services were held from St. Mary's Church, the Rev. Francis Denay officiating. Interment was in Brookside Cemetery.

Born on Beaver Island May 27th, 1913, Mr. Washegesic served in the Army during World War II, moving to Charlevoix after the war. He was a commercial fisherman.

He was married to the former Mary McSauba Bolton, Nov. 1, 1947. He is survived by his widow, three children Janice, 16, Robert, 14, and Donna, 12; and three stepchildren, Richard, Glenda and Gerald Bolton.

THANK YOU: Mrs. Russell (Joy) Green wishes to thank everyone who remembered her with flowers, prayers, get-well wishes and letters during her recent convalescence. Also, for the many kindnesses extended her family.

Mr. and Mrs. Bud McDonough want to extend their deepest appreciation and heartfelt thanks to friends and relatives for their acts of kindness and expressions of sympathy and for the beautiful floral tributes. Masses and cards tendered at the unexpected loss of Skip's sister, Mrs. Frank (Joan) Tiggelman.

NOT ONCE, BUT TWICE: Clara and Willie Schmidt's chimney caught fire a few days before the Telephone Company's fire, not once but twice. Two rooms were badly damaged, but fortunately, the fire was brought under control before the fire could spread.

PONTOON HOUSE BOAT BUILDERS: Mr. and Mrs. Charles Homer of Griffith, Ind., built themselves a house boat after having the pontoons made. The couple started working on the boat in August, 1965. The pontoons are thirty feet long and the living area is sixteen feet by ten feet. The boat was taken by low boy to the Calumet River at Dalton. The couple plan to spend weekends on the boat and will use it for cruises when Mr. Homer, an electrical engineer, retires from his position as vice president of the Fischbach Moor and Mooresy Company at East Chicago.

The boat sleeps six, has a dining area, kitchen, bath with shower, and is equipped with a gas operated stove, refrigerator and hot water heater.

FORMER ISLAND DOCTOR IS BAY COUNTY MEDICAL FACILITY DIRECTOR: Dr. Harry F. Vail will begin work July 1st as the first fulltime Bay County Medical Facility director.

Vail, 57, will also, at \$27,500 per year, be moving into the county's number one paying position.

However, county officials and medical society representatives think Vail would have been a bargain at almost any price.

Our biggest problem was talking Harry into taking the job we knew he was the best man for," said Dr. Francis H. Letchfield, chairman of the county social service board.

"It was a pleasure to recommend Dr. Vail for this important job," was the statement from the Bay County Medical Society.

Dr. Vail will have a "free hand" in choosing at \$5,000 per year part-time assistant to help him run the fast growing facility in Hampton Township.

The two doctors will be responsible for taking care of 102 patients immediately and 204 possibly late this year when an addition to the existing facility is completed.

Dr. Vail said he would discontinue his general practice before July 1 when he is scheduled to report to work.

He said he will take a post graduate course in medicine and hopes to get a short vacation.

Dr. Vail was admitted to medical practice here in 1934 and has done public health work, served a hitch in the U.S. Army Medical Corps, and been in general practice in Bay County for many years.

FATHER McLAUGHLIN RECALLS YEARS AT BEAVER ISLAND: The years he spent on Beaver Island, are probably those best remembered by the Rev. Fr. Frank L. McLaughlin, pastor of St. Agatha Catholic Church in Gagetown, Michigan, who is retiring March 1.

He is retiring for reason of health and not due to age, although he is 69. A throat ailment has developed in the past six weeks which restricts his talking to an audience and he has requested the retirement. In 1931, he took charge of Holy Cross Church, Beaver Island and it proved to be one of the interesting highlights of an interesting career. On the island, he organized the first chamber of commerce and served as its first president. He remained on the island four years. He recalls the parish had to generate its own electricity, pump its own water and the close of the navigation season bring in a supply of canned goods, hams, bacon, steaks and groceries to last until the spring. He smiles when he remembers hanging the meat in a shed to freeze in the cold weather. That was in the days before the deep freeze. One of the last contacts with the mainland at Charlevoix was the boat trip with his pickup truck to bring in a truckload of groceries. He also had to import gasoline for his electric generators.

He also let bids each year for a supply of cordwood for heating. "I burned some of the best birdseye maple in my furnaces," he recalls. Those were depression days. He once organized a beef cattle roundup on the island to help out the farmers. Transportation was the stumbling block for the residents, but he solved it with ease since while in college he had worked as chief yard clerk for the Grand Trunk Railway at Durand.

When the surplus beef animals were collected, Fr. McLaughlin hired a boat to take them to the mainland, where he had already had a cattle car spotted by the railway. He consigned the beef to the Detroit stock yards and soon had a manifest and check back. He then distributed the money to the farmers.

He got top dollar in the sale, too. The surprised farmers reported they would have settled for far less.

In 1934, when most of the farm crops were destroyed in a fire, the islanders had no money to purchase feed for their stock.

He solved that problem too, after being turned down by the welfare. Fr. McLaughlin called the office of the governor. An administrative assistant turned him over to an agricultural department official, Burr B. Lincoln, a native of Harbor Beach.

After telling his story of the loss of crops in the dead of winter, the good father was told the department could provide the fodder, but transportation offered a problem across the frozen lake. The parish priest solved that by calling Coast Guard headquarters in Washington. He got the promise of the cutter "Escanaba" to break through the ice to the island.

The necessary grain and hay was purchased from Charlevoix farmers, who appreciated the extra money in the depression year, it was transported to the island where the farmers there appreciated the assistance.

Fr. McLaughlin remembers, too, that the junior grade lieutenant in charge of the coast guard ship was E. J. Rolland, who recently retired as commandant of the Coast Guard in Washington.

Before leaving the island, he also arranged for six herd sires to be delivered from Michigan State College to improve the beef herds.

He left the island in 1935 to take an assignment as pastor of St. Paul's Church, Onaway, and the mission of St. Monica at Afton.

He has no definite plans for retirement, but plans to live alternately with two brothers, D. J. McLaughlin, Pontiac, and Edward J. McLaughlin, Merrill. He also has a sister, Sister Mary Kevin, O.P. Phd.

HONOR ROLL: The Beaver Island School releases the Honor Roll for the fourth marking period of the scholastic year:

Grade 12 -- Jeanne Wojan	Grade 3 -- Mary Terese Green
Grade 10 -- Ronald Wojan	Mark LaFreniere
Grade 9 -- Angie Wojan	Christine Martin
Grade 6 -- Joan LaFreniere	Kathy McDonough
Audrey Wojan	Diane Wojan
Grade 5 -- Julie Gillespie	Grade 2 -- Karl Crawford
Grade 4 -- James Cole	Grade 1 -- Bernadette Green
Dawn Martin	Daniel McDonough
Patricia Wojan	Linda Wojan

Congratulations to these students for their fine academic work and let's see a few more names on the list next time.

BIRTHS: Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Gallagher announce the arrival of a son, Sean on March 7th. Sean weighed in at 8 lbs. 1½ oz. Mr. and Mrs. John A. Gallagher and Mr. and Mrs. Jack Martin are the happy grandparents.

DEVELOPMENT BEGINS: The American Central Corporation, of Lansing, who purchased Henry Allen's Donegal property, is having the platting done by survey engineers from the Norton Gourdu, Miller and Batzer Company in Traverse City. The men will begin work on the project next week.

MONTGOMERY WARD DAYS: On Monday April 3rd, representatives of the Montgomery Ward Company will arrive on the Island to spend two days. Beginning at 12:00 noon, on April 3rd, and continuing thru Tuesday, the representatives will be at the Circle M Lodge to take orders. Refreshments will be served to all attending. On Monday evening, April 3rd, a free full length movie will be presented at 7:00 p. m. and at 9:00 p. m. in the Multi-Purpose Room at the School. Pop and Popcorn, a must at all movies, will be served.

BEAVER TALES

Part III

As commercial fishing began to decline, the remaining Indian settlement on High Island was slowly disbanding either to Beaver Island or to the mainland, seeking greener pastures. As the clouds of World War II loomed over the Nation, High Island became a Ghost Island; its empty buildings standing as mute evidence of a past era.

When the month of March rolls around thoughts of the coming season dominate the minds of islanders. With a winter ending and the bank accounts low, it is also a time of planning for new endeavours. Such was the case one March day in 1951, as Archie LaFreniere and "Bub" Burke sat around the stove of the Shamrock Bar, discussing ways and means of increasing their finances. It had been mentioned that ponies left on High Island by the Indians, had survived in the wild with no ill effects. This being the case, why wouldn't it be a good idea to put some good breeding stock on the island to develop a herd and round up the colts each year? Both agreed it would be worth a try and "Bub" knew of a fine stallion for sale at Petoskey. With its purchase, skeptical islanders began to realize this endeavour was in earnest. Publicity drew the attention of a professional horse trader from down state, by the name of Underwood and soon it was a company of three in the venture. A total of 21 horses were purchased and the Beaver Island Boat Company board was approached to charter the North Shore to transfer the steeds to High Island. A fee of \$50.00 was agreed upon for the charter and Archie had already received permission from Benton Harbor to utilize the island. To defray the expenses, the trio organized a promotional parade down the main street of St. James and soon collected \$175.00 in fares from tourists and Islanders alike, for a trip to High Island, and back. As the North Shore hove to close to the beach of High Island, the horses were shoved out the open gangway and promptly swam ashore. One ashore, the stallion pranced around his harem of mares and herded them off into the interior.

Hardly had the horses reached shore when the publicized trip began receiving indignant letters from horse lovers, charging them with cruelty. Soon the Humane Society brought their guns to bear and plans to evacuate the horses had to be made. During the following winter, when the ice was well made between the islands, the herd was rounded up and brought across to Beaver. The enterprising trio then set up a horse sale in the Shamrock and trading was brisk among the Islanders, replacing their old horses for one of these of a more recent vintage. The traders were more interested in bulk weight than age, so many a single trade was made in exchange for a heavy working team. When the boat made its first run from the Island in April, its main cargo was made up of over forty field worn steeds destined for the market. Whether it is coincidence or not, we are not certain, but it was just a few short weeks later that the horse meat scandal broke out in Chicago.

Once more High Island stood quiet, but only for a short time. Warren Townsend, of Holland, purchased the island shortly after the horse episode and proceeded to go into the cattle business. An expert pilot, Warren cleared an air strip in the interior, built a barn, living quarters and put his two sons to tending the cattle. Operational expenses proved too much and the project quickly came to an end after a year or so.

The State of Michigan purchased the Island from Warren Townsend, and now use it for game experimentation. Most of the old buildings are gone now. The eight sided foundation is all that remains of the "House of Virgins" and depressions in the ground are about all that mark sites of other dwellings. Remains of school desks amid rotting timbers confirm the fact that a school once stood there. An old boiler near the beach is a souvenir of the laundry that the Israelites once operated. Ghosts of the past are easily found throughout the Island, as once more it stands alone, deserted and beautiful in a sea of blue.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

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

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