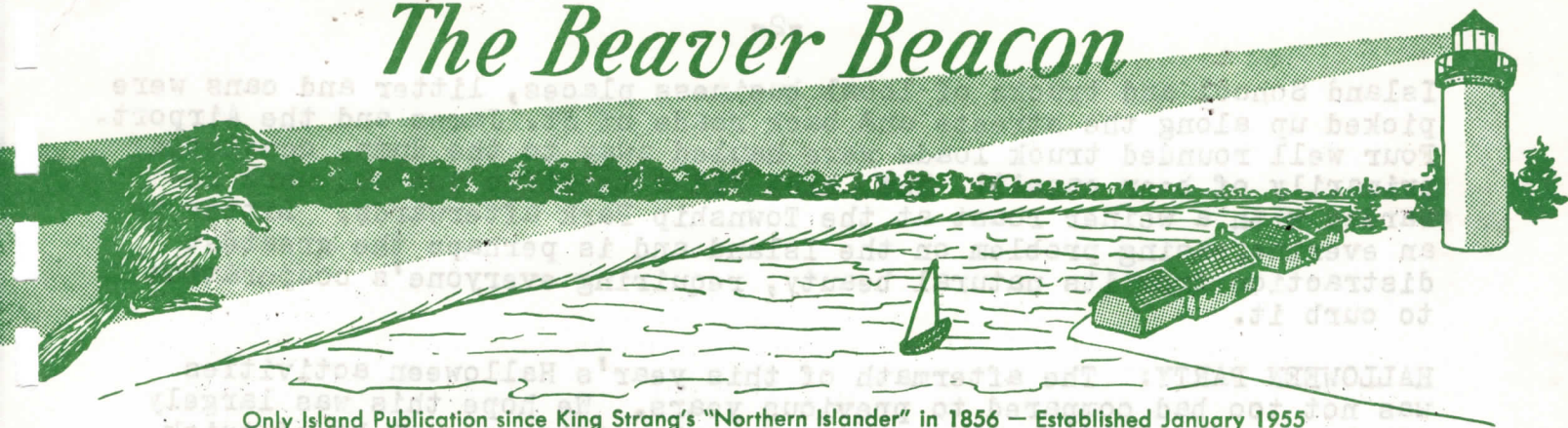


The Beaver Beacon



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

November 1968

Chilling winds from the north, pushing snow laden clouds across a leaden sky, set the scene for a new change of season. Winter will soon settle upon the Island, leaving behind all the fevered activities of the season just passed.

WEATHER: The Beaver Island weather as reported by Fire Officer Bill Wagner, for the month of October.

Average daytime temperature was 59 degrees.
Average nighttime temperature was 46.3 degrees.
Highest daytime temperature was 79 degrees on the 15th.
Lowest nighttime temperature was 34 degrees on the 21st, 27th and 29th.
Rainfall for the month was 2.51 inches.
Rain occurred on the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 6th, 8th, 10th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 22nd, 23rd and 27th.
There was fog on the 2nd.
Hail on the 2nd and 4th.
Windy and overcast for most of the month.

GAME NEWS: This has been a month of Wild Turkey hunting on the Island and to date it has been the most successful yet. About 25 turkeys have been taken - 3 by Bow and Arrow, 22 by Shotgun and 1 by truck. Being a comparatively new sport to the area, much has been learned this season, regarding their habits. Once under way, Wild Turkeys have been clocked at 55 miles per hour. On the ground, they can out run a dog and, of course, still have that ace in the hole, to take to the air. Not realizing that a Turkey could fly, one Charlevoix hunter watched one fly right over his head. When he realized what it actually was, it was well out of range. Perhaps the most successful hunter is Russ Green, who has bagged two this season, legally. One, by accident, with his truck and another he spotted while cutting wood and happened to have his gun and permit along.

Deer season is upon us now and camps are quickly filling with red-coated hunters. This, of course, is the last hoopla before the closing in of winter. Approximately four hundred hunters are on the Island this season and next Beacon we will be able to relate the final results but so far 97 deer have been taken.

TRASH PICK-UP: At the suggestion of Civic Association Vice-President, Jerry LaFreniere, a community clean-up drive was organized for the afternoon of the 10th of November. Using volunteers from the Beaver

Island School and trucks of local business places, litter and cans were picked up along the streets and back roads of St. James and the Airport. Four well rounded truck loads were hauled away to the dump, consisting primarily of beer cans!!! The kids did a terrific job and were rewarded with a weiner roast at the Township Park afterwards. Litter is an everincreasing problem on the Island and is perhaps the greatest distraction from its natural beauty, requiring everyone's cooperation to curb it.

HALLOWEEN PARTY: The aftermath of this year's Halloween activities was not too bad compared to previous years. We hope this was largely due to a party for the kids at the School. After one night of trick or treating by the younger ghosts and goblins, the upper grades were divided into two teams for two different scavenger hunts with prizes of a case of pop to the winners. A mystery movie was shown afterwards, with cider and donuts for refreshments. Thus the evening ended up with very few distructive pranks.

COMMUNICATION GAP: This past summer has been a particularly rough one in regards to our telephone service. With the loss of the telephone building two years ago, temporary equipment had to be installed in the old kitchen of the Holy Cross Hall.

With the added pressure of a growing community, this temporaty equipment has been taxed well beyond its capacity. This fall a new metal building has been constructed and new equipment is being installed. Extended lines will service more of the Island. There will be more circuits off the Island to meet the ever increasing demand for long distance calls. All in all the picture looks good in regards to closing the communication gap here on the Island.

PANCAKE SUPPER: The Beaver Island Christian Church offered a pancake supper on the evening of the 9th of November. A large number of pancakes, sausages and donuts was consumed by a good turn out. Church members wish to offer thanks to all who helped make this a success.

BAKE SALE: With both the Holy Cross Church Altar Society and the Beaver Island Christian Church Women's Circle participating, a bake sale was held the day before the opening of deer season, at LaFreniere Store. This gave the hunters a chance to stock up on home baked goods for their stay here. This, too, turned out well with each group clearing over \$48.00. Island women are especially good at baking so there is always a demand for their products. Of course this also, contributes to a weight problem many of us have-----.

SERVICEMEN'S NEWS: Here is an address we missed last month:

Lt. Thomas N. Gallagher
31 B Nehls Blvd.
Sheppard A.F.B. Texas 76311

MUSEUM NOTES: The Beaver Island Historical Society has closed the Museum for the winter after a very successful year. Our Open House was attended by 115 people this year and we will say the Island children did visit the Museum more than adults. In fact, we had in 1968 the total of 1,394 people who went thru your Museum and many of them were astonished with the collection we now hav

on display. We have built new display cabinets in the front room down stairs, as Mr. Lawrence Malloy is placing his collection in the Museum so the people who visit the Island will have an opportunity to see this collection. Also, we have spent over \$900 in improvements and now have the 2nd floor ceiling and floor in place, the building is now wired for electricity so we can light each room and are starting a collection of old furniture for upstairs. We sold over \$1,000.00 of books this year. A good job was done by those who were so faithful this year in assisting to see that everyone was happy and that things were explained to them. We had another 1000 books "Child of the Sea" printed this year. We have had a considerable number of new items placed in the Museum by our friends this year.

As President of your Beaver Island Historical Society, I do want to say that we have missed our Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. L. T. Rountree because of illness. He has been very faithful every day for the last 4 years. We so wish him a speedy recovery and hope by next spring he will be back on the job with us and enjoying the best of health. Also, I wish to thank Mr. and Mrs. William Wittenberg and Mrs. Paul Nelson and Mrs. Robert Smith for their wonderful help in taking care of the Museum one day each week.

It would be nice to have others who could volunteer and would help. I would love to talk to them. It is very fascinating work. We do expect several changes in 1969 and do hope our Island people will visit their Museum.

Your Board has agreed all Life Members, man and wife, are entitled to go thru the Museum at any time just by showing their Life Membership cards.

Also, we are considering other changes when we meet in June. We will consider regular members 6 visits per \$3.00 membership each year and this will be put up to the membership to pass on. Think this over. Now is the time for you to join your Historical Society or to renew your 1969 membership. We do need your membership. We hope for some real changes soon with your help.

See you in the spring.

A. J. Roy, President

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE BEAVER ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Enclosed find \$ _____ for a _____ MEMBERSHIP.

Life.....	\$100.00	Contributing.....	\$25.00
Sustaining.....	50.00	Good Will.....	10.00
Regular.....	\$3.00		

NAME _____ Remit to:
 ADDRESS _____ Beaver Island Historical Society
 Beaver Island
 CITY _____ St. James, Michigan 49782

OBITUARIES: CLYDE J. DUNBAR - Funeral services for Clyde J. Dunbar, 67, of Aurora, Colo., retired United Airlines pilot, were held at St. James on Monday, October 28th, with the Rev. Fr. Louis Wren, O.F.M. (Conv) officiating. Burial was in Holy Cross cemetery. Mr. Dunbar who had spent the summer on Beaver Island died unexpectedly October 25th at the Lake Terrace Mobile court as he prepared to return to the west. The body was taken to the St. James home of Mrs. Marguerite Runberg where friends could call. A native of Charlottesville, Ind., where he was born Sept. 7, 1901, Mr. Dunbar had been a pilot with the United Airlines for 35 years prior to his retirement in 1966. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge in Madison, Wisl, and the Retired United Airline Pilots Association. He and his wife, the former Kathryn McCann whom he had married at San Bernadino, Calif., in 1946, had come here from Aurora, Colo., early in the summer and had spent the past three and one-half months at St. James. They had returned to the mainland earlier in the week and were preparing to depart for the west. Besides his wife, he is survived by a sister, Mr. Arthur Higgins of Evanston, Ill.

JOSEPH DELPHIS PELLETIER - Funeral services for Joseph Delphis Pelletier, 92, former resident of Beaver Island, were held at St. Mary's Church on Saturday, October 26th, with Rev. E. Francis Denay officiating. Burial was in St. Mary's Cemetery. He passed away on October 24th at Grandvue Medical Care Facility where he had been a patient for the past 2 years. Born in Canada July 27th, 1876 he had farmed on Beaver Island for many years before moving to Charlevoix 12 years ago. Mr. Pelletier was a member of St. Mary's Church. His wife, Eugenia, died in 1955 and a son, Delphis died in 1966. Survivors include two grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. The body was at the Winchester Funeral Home where the rosary was recited Friday, October 25th.

HUNTER'S BANQUET: The Game Club's Annual Hunter's Dinner was held on the 17th of November with a menu of fried chicken, mashed potatoes, cold slaw and choices of pie. Nearly 200 hunters were fed and many stayed on to enjoy the program that followed. A short talk was given by Ralph Blough, Director of Research and Development with the Michigan Department of Conservation. Afterwards two short movies were shown. One on Upper Peninsula Bear Hunting and the other of scenic views of nature in the early fall. A short talk on the activities of the Beaver Island Game Club was given by Phil Gregg.

CONVENT REPORT: With each passing day the new Convent gets a little closer to completion and soon its completion can be announced. This project, that many said couldn't be done, is now a reality. The last hurdle is yet to be jumped but it is a comparatively low one compared to those that have been cleared. Approximately \$3,000.00 is needed for final completion. Anyone desiring to help finalize this worthy project may send his contribution to Convent Fund, St. James, Michigan 49782, and become a part of the effort.

REMEMBER - DECEMBER 15th - CHRISTMAS BAZAAR - HOLY CROSS PARISH HALL

BEAVER TALES

A date that is vivid in the memories of those that make their living from the waters of the Great Lakes and for many it ended their wage earnings. November 11, 1940 was the day of the Armistice Day Storm that stirred the lakes into a fury more severe than ever had been recorded. Many vessels and lives were lost throughout the lakes but this tale relates only to Beaver Island.

With winter closing in, Island fishermen were anxious to wind up the season on a successful note. Long before daylight engines were started and one by one the Island's small fleet of fish tugs headed out of the harbor to lift and re-set their nets.

"Big Art" Larsen's tug Estonia headed for his sets off Gull Island. There was no wind but heavy swells were rolling up the lake from the south. Starting to lift his nets, "Big Art" was amazed at the amount of trout in his nets. With only four boxes of nets lifted and re-set, his boat was heavy loaded with fish and there were still 36 boxes out. With an eye out for the weather, Art could see a storm bearing down from the Southwest. Not a dark cloud but almost like a fog bank moving up the lake. It was decided to head for home. The skippers on the other tugs saw the ominous signs of the impending storm also, and headed for St. James.

Arriving at his dock, Art tied his boat and he and the crew went about cleaning their catch. The other tugs were coming in, Frank Left's, Andy Gallagher's, Roland McCann's and coming in right with the storm was "Shing" Martin's tug the "Evelyn". No time to tie up, Shing headed his boat into the beach and ran her right up on the sand. The mail boat "Mary Margaret", tied up at the old Booth Fish Dock, was straining at her lines and was beginning to tear up the dock. The alerted crew fired her up and cast off to "run out" the storm in the harbor. The other tugs, except, the "Estonia", did the same for the wind was blowing with such force lines couldn't hold them.

As each hour passed, the wind increased in velocity and the fight to save the boats became a true test of stamina and seamanship. The water level in the harbor was rising rapidly and soon seas were breaking over the top of the various docks. The lines that held the Estonia to her dock parted as the level rose and just as though she had a phantom pilot at her wheel, she backed out away from the dock and maneuvered her way to the Northeastern end of the harbor and put her bow gently on the beach, between two ancient shipwrecks. Anxious observers, peering from their windows, were certain "Big Art" had for some reason untied his boat and put her on the beach. Darkness had fallen and the drama in the harbor continued. Lighted boats struggling against the storm.

With the light of day the storm had subsided and the water level was nearly normal, leaving debris high on the beaches. From all appearances considering the force of the storm, it looked as though Beaver Island had survived quite well. Shing's and Art's boats were high and dry but undamaged. Docks were in disarray but easily repairable. The real damage was done out in the lake. The means with which these people made their living. The many boxes of nets were gone, torn from their sets and swept away. Art had 40 boxes out, each box consisting of 4 nets and ten boxes to a gang. A gang of nets meant a loss of nearly \$1200.00. Shing Martin had lost even more and of course, the other fishermen had similar losses. This was the turning point in the Great Lakes fishing business.

With a few old mended nets they returned to the sea to reap their harvest but the crop was gone. Had the storm actually destroyed the fish? The lamprey eel had been present in the lakes for years but hadn't posed a real threat until this date! Many have speculated as to the cause but none the less the loss was very positive. It appeared as though the balance had tipped. The number of trout were so reduced that the eels soon swept the lake clear of this livelihood for so many. Beaver Island didn't have to mourn for the loss of men at sea but the loss was tremendous and a colorful era had passed.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

FOR SALE: Hi-Fi for sale. \$25.00 Contact Frank Schnaudigel, St. James, Michigan. Phone 448-5306.

PARAGON CONTRACTOR, INC.
Charlevoix, Mich.

547-6446 547-9447 547-9747

GENERAL CONTRACTORS

Commercial - Residential - Industrial

BRING YOUR BUILDING & REMODELING NEEDS TO PARAGON

Ray & Barry Wood
P. O. Box 315
Charlevoix, Michigan 49720

SNOW FUN: Before Christmas and before the boat stops running allows only a short while to make certain of getting in on a Winter of Island Fun with a new JOHNSON SKEE-HORSE SNOWMACHINE. No toy but a precision machine backed by generations of experience, make this an investment not a gamble.

BEAVER HAVEN MARINA

Authorized Johnson Dealer

St. James, Mich. 49782

Phone: 448-5400 or 448-5405

LEO KUJAWA

Builder

CABINETS

HOMES

PHONE 448-5575

REMODELING

St. James, Michigan 49782

CIRCLE M LODGE

featuring

FINE FOODS NATIVE WHITEFISH
 STEAKS - CHICKEN - SHRIMP

LIQUORS - MIXED DRINKS - DRAFT BEER

 TAKE OUT ORDERS
CHICKEN - WHITEFISH - SHRIMP - PIZZA

FOR SALE: Cottages completely furnished, 1 bedroom, living, dining kitchen and bath. Located on harbor. May be seen by contacting - Perry Crawford, Erin Motel, St. James, Mich. 49782.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

That Time has arrived again and membership dues should be paid by January 1st, 1968.

Many people have already paid their dues, but if you have not why not enclose \$3.00 with the form below to make sure you will receive the Beacon all of 1969.

Remember the Beaver Beacon makes a wonderful Christmas Gift, too, so why not do your Christmas Shopping now.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Personal \$3.00 per year

Business \$25.00 per year

PLEASE NOTE: We need your Zip Code Number. Please be sure it is on your renewal form.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING DAY TO ALL