

The Beaver Beacon



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

April 1974

Ah, spring at last! The harbor ice has finally succumbed to bright sun and south winds. The boat is back in operation, ready to start another season. Soon mushrooms and wild flowers will be prevalent in the woods and remnants of winter will be long gone.

Game News: At a special Game Club meeting this last month, local members met with Troy Yoder, Director of Region 2, and Herb Johnson, Superintendent of McMullen Conservation School, at Higgins Lake. A round table discussion was held in regards to several proposed projects to be acted on this year. We definitely are going to re-plant trukeys on Beaver Island but this project is one that will have to wait until the D.N.R. has funds available to live trap the birds. Instead of Game Farm raised birds, wild birds will be live trapped for releasing, these birds will be able to fend for themselves better and won't bunch up like the previous birds did. Also, they shouldn't be provided with feed, for they come to depend on being fed and are soon quite tame, making them easy prey for both 2 and 4 legged predators. A study of exactly what other game birds could be successfully planted here, is being made. The Reeves Pheasant and Korean Pheasant are two possibilities.

The Club hopes to get a planting of Makinaw Trout in the harbor and see if we can't improve the harbor fishing. These fingerling trout would have to be held in a screen enclosure in the harbor, for about three weeks in order to develop their homing instincts and many would no doubt fall prey to pike in the harbor but it just might pay off.

A large timber stand cut was proposed on state land in the general area from Miller's Marsh to French Bay. This timber would be professionally harvested and allow new growth to provide browse for both large and small game.

Several other topics were discussed, including controlled burning of huckleberry marshes and new and different types of mineral blocks for deer. Even if one or two of these proposals are implemented this year, it would be a good step ahead.

Weather: The Beaver Island weather for the month of March as reported by Fire Officer Bill Wagner.

High Temperature of 56 degrees on the 3rd.

Low temperature of 4 degrees on the 23rd.

High 5 p.m. temperature of 53 degrees on the 3rd.

Low 5 p.m. temperature of 10 degrees on the 22nd.

Average high temperature was 34.7 degrees.

Average low temperature was 20.9 degrees.

Average 5 p.m. temperature was 29.7 degrees.

Total snowfall for the month was 15.5 inches.

Total snowfall since November is 49.5 inches.

Total precipitation since January is 3.17 inches.

Business Men's Association: These past two months have been made up of almost continuous meetings, prior to the coming season and one more organization is being formed so we can have more meetings. The idea behind a Businessmen's Association is to act on mutual problems existing on the Island in regards to filling needs of promotion and services. Still in its infancy, the Association is seeking ways and means to assist or promote a restaurant in St. James, as the first project. As of now, there is no restaurant in the village. The "Castaways" will not be open this season, according to our latest report. Hopes are high that something soon can be worked out, for this is much needed before the influx of tourists begins.

Beaver Island School Dilemma: After a lengthy study by the Education Committee of the Dominican Sisters of Grand Rapids, the Island was recently notified that within the next two years the Sisters may be removed from the Island. The reason for this is that there just aren't enough Sisters to fill all the places they are needed. After having been established on the Island nearly eighty years, this has brought about much concern in regards to the future. The Sisters, dedicated as they are, have maintained a very important part in the Community; perhaps more so than many of us realize. The Beaver Island School has raised to the very top in education efficiency due only to the personal concern and extra efforts that the Sisters put forth.

Hopes are that through appeals and perhaps some adjustments, we may prevent or prolong this change. Perhaps with the hiring of semi-retired Sisters on a part-time basis or to maintain the Administration of the School under the principalship of a Sister, thus assuring the same high quality of guidance on a firm Christian

foundation, maybe reasonable alternatives.

Regardless, there will be a change, much as we dislike seeing it happen.

Births: Mr. and Mrs. Donald Pischner are the proud parents of a son, Lee Christopher 8½ lbs., 22 ins., born in Phoenix, Ariz. on March 22nd.

Mrs. Lovicey Pischner, a former Islander is the proud grandmother.

Beaver Island Player's: The Beaver Island Player's are looking for aspiring actors and actresses to appear or assist at their summer productions. If you're interested contact:

Martha Miller

Beaver Island

St. James, Mi 49782

School Trip: "A big time is in store for all the kids of the Beaver Island School. On the first of May, the entire school, including all the teachers and chaperones will depart via boat from the Island to Charlevoix. From there the Juniors and Seniors will head for King's Island, in Ohio, in three motor vans, furnished by Fred Annard, Bill Turner and Vern Hansen. The Fourth through Tenth Grades will board a big school bus for a trip to Greenfield Village via Lansing and the Capitol. The First through the Third Grades will visit a big farm near Boyne City and also side trips to a Nursery, Museum, Fire Department, Police Department, etc. If it all works out well, we'll give the details of the results next month.

Island Clean Up: To help earn money for their upcoming trip, the Juniors and Seniors spent a good share of two days picking up litter along the Island's roads. Though there doesn't seem to be as much trash as in previous years, there was enough to make several truck loads, indicating that there are still some who don't care what the countryside looks like.

Obituaries: Alberta LaFreniere Passes: Alberta passes away Saturday, March 30th here, at her Island home.

Funeral services for Mrs. Joseph M. LaFreniere, 51, were held Monday at Holy Cross Church, with the Rev. Herbert Graf, O.F.M. and the Rev. Edward Donahue, officiating. Burial was in Holy Cross Cemetery. The Rosary was recited at the family home on Sunday evening.

Following brain surgery at a Chicago Hospital, to relieve pressure of a growing tumor, Alberta wanted to spend her remaining days at home on the Island. Paralyzed and unable to speak, she was tenderly cared for on a 24 hour basis by a small group

of Island ladies. Totally aware of her surroundings, she enjoyed watching the activity of the village and harbor from her bed and especially the school children who stopped to wave to her.

After eight months, it is indeed difficult to understand the why of long suffering, but Father Donahue said it so well, explaining this is a true test of faith and patience, of which Alberta had an abundance. Joe (Bussy) would like to express his heart-felt thanks to all who have helped so much during these long months. All who knew her will miss her terribly but rejoice in knowing that she is at long last at peace and we are all better off in our having known her.

Bussy would like to thank everyone for the prayers, cards, flowers, food and all the expressions of help and sympathy that were sent during Alberta's illness and death.

Bruce Zeitler: Services for Bruce Nowland Zeitler, retired U.S. Navy Master Chief, who died unexpectedly Wednesday, April 17th at his home in Kissimmee, Florida were held April 20th at Grissom Funeral Home.

Rosary services were held April 13th by Father Donnelly of St. Cloud, Fla.

Mr. Zeitler was a Roman Catholic. Funeral services were said by the Catholic Chaplain from the Orlando Navy Base.

Mr. Zeitler was born April 7, 1920 and graduated from the Charlevoix High School. He enlisted in the Navy in 1941 retiring to Orlando, Fla. in 1971 after serving 30 years. Mr. Zeitler moved to Kissimmee 8 months ago.

Surviving are his wife, Norma, three daughters, Mrs. John (Judith) Davenport of Whispering Pines, North Carolina, Patricia of Whispering Pines and Theresa at home, two sons, Bruce, Jr. and John also at home, (A daughter Mary preceded him in death in 1971) five brothers, John of Arcadia, Fla., Kenneth of Mt. Pleasant, Mi., Harry of Lantana, Fla., Bernard of Cara, Mi., and Carl of Oxford, Michigan; four sisters, Mrs. Vernon (Jean) Lafreniere of St. James, Beaver Island, Mrs. Gid (Mary) Jukacs of Carefree, Ariz., Mrs. Ronald (Theresa) Shawborn of Middletown, N. J., and Mrs. Len (Janice) Rayman of Anaheim, Calif.

Margaret Miller: Funeral services for Mrs. Earl E. (Margaret) Miller, 87, who died March 27th at River Park Hospital in McMinnville, Tenn., were held at St. Mary's Church April 1st with the Rev. E. Francis Denay officiating. Burial was in St. Mary's Cemetery. The Rosary was recited at the Winchester Funeral Home Sunday evening.

Born on Beaver Island May 23, 1886, the former Margaret Donlevy came to Charlevoix as a young woman. She was married to Mr. Miller at Grand Rapids, in 1915. They

returned here to make their home until going to McMinnville 18 months ago. She was a member of St. Mary's Church and its Rosary Altar Society. Besides her husband, she is survived by a daughter, Mrs. Edward S. (Marjorie) Radle of McMinnville, Tenn.; six grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; two sisters, Mrs. James McDermott of Chicago and Mrs. Katherine McCallum of Charlevoix and a brother, Frank Donlevy of Muskegon.

Hospital Notes: John Lahey is a patient in Hurley Hospital, Corner of 6th St. and Begole, Room 1161, Flint, Michigan.

Gene Burke has returned to the Island after an extended stay in a Grand Rapids Hospital.

Marie Reigle is a patient in McLaren Hospital, Ballanger Hwy., Room 655, Flint, Mi.

March of Dimes: The results of the March of Dimes for 1974 on Beaver Island is \$254.50 which includes \$28.00 from the school children.

Stabilization

From the Agricultural Conservation Service: These are some conservation practices that Island land owners may be interested in doing on a cost-share basis with the Federal Government. The Beaver Island Sportsman Club is also eligible. These practices are paid 75% of the actual cost.

- 1974 RE - 3 Planting trees. To establish a stand of forest trees for timber production purposes, and to preserve and improve the environment.
- RE - 4 Improve a stand of forest trees to increase production efficiency on sites suitable for the production of raw timber and veneer logs.
- RE - 10 Permanent Wildlife Habitat. To protect land from erosion and provide permanent wildlife habitat (including shallow water areas) cover on food.

1973 These practices are available due to a recent court judgment by Congress, the 1973 REAP Program has been restored. Cost Sharing is available at 50% of the cost.

9 - 4 (b) Treatment of woodland for improvement of wildlife habitat. To improve woodland areas by clear cutting blocks or strips to induce sprouting for wildlife. 50% of the cost.

9 - 5 Wildlife food plots. To establish food plots for wildlife, including production and enrichment improvement. 50% of the cost.

For practice sheets and instructions contact me at the following address:

Pete LoDico
Agricultural Stabilization Conservation Service
27 N. Park St.
Boyer City, MI 49712

Phone 582-6231

Uninvited Guests Come to Share St. Pat's Day: As Doctor and Ellie Hohn sat before their fireplace, they saw strange small faces peering in their window - it was St. Patrick's Day - could it be leprechauns? No, just two inquisitive racoons.

Flash!! Last month's Medical Center Auxiliary news stated that a new account was being opened for the Building Fund. This is not true. There is and has been an account for the Building Fund and new donations are being deposited in the established account.

Sailor's Return to the Lakes: Philip (Don) Burke has returned to the Lakes for this years season. His address is as follows:

Philip L. Burke
Str. Richard V. Lindabury
Marine Post Office
Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. 49783

Classified Advertising

For Sale: 40 acres on Fox Lake Road. NW 1/4 of NW 1/4 Sec. 28 Peaine Township.
Philip L. Burke, St. James, MI 49782 Phone 616-448-2760

For Sale: 10 acres on two main highways. Income from 2 furnished Mobile Homes, modern 2 story barn for boat and car storage and Laundromat, plus modern 4 bedroom home with large acreage for expansion. Will sell separately. Inquire at City Dock, Charlevoix, Michigan

Classified Advertising

Patches: Beaver Island Patches are for sale at LaFreniere's Store. The price is only \$1.00, postpaid. Please write V. H. LaFreniere, General Store, Beaver Island St. James, Michigan 49782.

Horses Boarded - on Beaver Island. Grooming, exercising, general care, clean box stalls, reasonable rates. Call Laurie McGlaocklin for further information - 616-448-2318 or write St. James, Michigan 49782.

Mister Ed's Fixit

Repairs to: Plumbing, Electrical & Heating Systems
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Phone 616-448-2256

St. James, Mi 49782

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Real Estate Broker

5450 W. State Road

Middleville, Michigan 49333

Phone 616-795-9519