

The Beaver Beacon



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

FEBRUARY 1973

Once more the harbor has frozen smooth and youngsters and oldsters alike have made skating the spare time pasttime. It has certainly been a strange winter, with so little snow that Sunday drives can even include visits to the south end of the Island. Needless to say, the Island's snowmachine population has had a prolonged rest. Knowing Michigan weather though, this whole picture can change very rapidly.

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

High temperature of 48 degrees on the 18th.
Low temperature of 1 degree on the 8th and 10th.
High 5 p.m. temperature of 45 degrees on the 18th.
Low 5 p.m. temperature of 7 degrees on the 7th.
Average high temperature - 30.2 degrees.
Average low temperature - 18.2 degrees.
Average 5 p.m. temperature - 25.4 degrees.
Banana belt weather between 13th and 27th when temperatures ranged from 33 degrees to 48 degrees.
Total snowfall for the month was 11 inches.
Total snowfall since November is 29.5 inches.
Total precipitation since January 1st is 1.25 inches.
Total precipitation this month (January) was 1.25 inches.
3 inches of snow on the ground at the end of the month with bare spots showing in the fields.

GAME NEWS: Being an "open" winter has been a big break for the deer herd, for it allows them to range out from their heavily browsed winter yards to areas of more plentiful food supplies. It also gives them a better chance of defense against their predators, the coyote. As an example of their well being, foodwise, no deer have shown up so far, at the timber cutting project south of Green's Lake, which has been authorized by the D.N.R. and is being carried out and supervised by Fire Officer Bill Wagner.

Rabbit hunters continue to do well and even the rabbits are having a good year for the army of hunters is pretty small. Melvin Napont has been the most active in this field and most generally, evening finds him and his dogs heading for home with his limit. Perry Gatliff finally was able to get his shanty out in the harbor and and twice a day he tries his luck in various locations. After three days, the count is still zero but perhaps he'll locate a "Hot Spot" yet.

About a week ago, our resident pilot, Bill Welke using his 180 Cessna, with Phil Gregg as bombardier, dropped salt blocks on Garden and Beaver Islands, doing in a few minutes what has always been a long tedious job. Other blocks will be placed in strategic area by foot or snowmobile. We use a salt block having trace minerals added that D.N.R. biologists tell us, this area needs. These blocks usually last a year, and even though much of it dissolves into the ground or into a stump, deer and other animals dig it up to get it. To further explain the timber cut being done on the south side of Green's Lake, Bill Wagner includes this note. "This Timber Stand Improvement work is being done on state land and is mainly for the purpose of showing private landowners what can be done to improve the timber stands on their own lands. By cutting some of the larger rotten deformed or otherwise culltrees, it will let the sunlight in and promote new growth of small trees. This type of cutting is excellent for wildlife habitat work and should be better than clear cutting. This type of cutting, while not providing maximum food and cover, will provide good food and cover for a longer period of time. Trees being cut are left on the ground and can be had by anyone wanting firewood."

LOTTERY WINNERS: Since the beginning of the Michigan Lottery, Beaver Island has come up with some winners too. All have been \$25.00 winners but still have a chance at the grand drawing. First to win was Perry Gatliff, then Donald Cole and Dick LaFreniere. Who knows, maybe one of these days we'll have a millionaire on the Island.

CIRCLE "M" OPENS AFTER REMODELING: Saturday, February 3rd, the Circle "M" offered a Smorgasbord as their opening fare, after their extensive re-modeling job. Opportunities to dine out are quite a rarity on the Island, in the wintertime, so most everyone took advantage of the occasion and had a full and filling evening.

FUTURE SNOWMOBILERS: A course in snowmobile safety has been taught the fifth graders on up. This was sponsored by the Charlevoix County Sheriff's Department and was taught by Bill Welke. 13 students took the course and now hold certificates to prove their abilities. Of course, here on the Island the kids learn to operate snowmobiles shortly after they learn to walk. We have been extremely fortunate so far, in not having any accidents resulting in serious injuries and let's hope this training will help keep up the good record.

MARCH OF DIMES: For a community that survives with but very little income during the winter months, the Island once more, same way out on top in the March of Dimes Drive. Headed up by Vera Wojan, collections totaled \$265.00. The school children alone, donated \$33.49. This is quite spectacular from an area with a population of under 200. It would be safe to bet that per capita, this would be the highest in the state.

INFORMATION NEEDED: a project adapted by the Townships, is to update the St. James Cemetery. From all appearances, one would think that there are but a very few graves for there are very few markers. It would be most helpful if anyone who has definite knowledge of the location, dates and names of relatives or friends, whose graves are unmarked, would contact Dick DeRosia, St. James, Michigan. Material has been purchased to construct forty new crosses, which at least will be a start on the project. The Dick DeRosia family has been doing a fine job in keeping the cemetery neat and tidy; now we would like to carry it a bit further.

HOSPITAL NOTES: Florence Burke is still recuperating at home following foot surgery at the Medical Center on December 18th.

Edwin McCann is a patient in Little Traverse Hospital in Petoskey, Michigan.

Perry Crawford was a patient in a Sarasota Hospital but has now returned to his home at Route 1, Box 74-55, Howard Creek Road, Sarasota, Fla. 33577.

SERVICEMEN'S NEWS: Paul Welke, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Welke, has left the Island for Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri to take part in basic training and schooling. He will be gone 5 months. He recently joined a National Guard Unit in Cheyboyan. Anyone wishing to write to him may do so at the following address:

Pvt. Paul Welke 384-54-3806
A - 5 - 3 4th Platoon
Ft. Leonard Wood, Mo 65473

PEAINE TOWNSHIP NEWS: At a recent Township Board meeting temporary members were appointed to the Zoning Board. Bill Welke is replacing Paul Welke until he finishes his service hitch. Olive Bailey is replacing Father Donahue until he returns from vacation. Other members are Madonna McCafferty and Bob McGlocklin.

The Peaine Township Board of Review will meet on March 6th for the first time and on March 12th and 13th the Board of Review will be open to the public. Bob McGlocklin, Clive Bailey and Bill Welke are on the Board of Review and the meeting will be held at the home of Supervisor, Gladys Schnaudigel. Hours for the Board of Review will be 9 to 5.

ST. JAMES TOWNSHIP NEWS: The St. James Township Board of Review will meet at home above Supervisor Bud McDonough's Store from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on March 6th. The same hours will be maintained on March 12th and 13th, when the meetings are open to the public. Frank Nackerman, Phil Gregg and Vernon LaFreniere are on the Board of Review for St. James Township.

WEDDINGS: Dr. and Mrs. Matthew Hohn announce the marriage of their daughter Catherine Theresa to Mr. Mark Crisman Freeman on Saturday, the 27th of January at All Faith Chapel, Preston St., Mt. Pleasant, Michigan.

BIRTHS: Mr. and Mrs. Robert (Sally McDonough) Miller of Jennison, Michigan announce the birth of a daughter, Jennifer Lynn, 8 lbs., 8 oz. on February 2nd. Mr. and Mrs. Bob (Holiday) McDonough of Grand Rapids, are the proud grandparents.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph D. Baenke (Joe and Pat) announce the birth of a daughter, Lisa Beth, on January 2nd, 1973. Lisa weighed in at 5 lbs., 7 oz. and resides at 1327 Cumberland Circle West, Elk Grove Village, Ill. 60007.

BEACON NEWS: Anyone having news for the Beaver Beacon or advertising, we would appreciate receiving the information by the 5th of each month for the coming Beacon. Just send it to the Beacon Editors, St. James, Michigan and we will be delighted to print it in the following Beacon.

OBITUARIES: Word has been received of the sudden death of Elston Pischner in Phenix, Ariz. Elston was stricken while visiting his daughter on February 8th. The Pischner's lived at 930 Moreland in Phenix, Arizona 85007 and next month we will have the full obituary.

Mr. Robert Somerville, 58, a retired Coast Guardsman, died January 31st at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ann Arbor where he had been a patient for six days, following heart surgery. Services were held at the Winchester Funeral Home in Charlevoix and burial was in Sunset Hill cemetery, East Jordan. The Somerville's own a cottage at the south end of the Island and visited the Island as often as they could. Surviving are his wife, Beatrice; a son, Darrel; two daughters, Mrs. Douglas (Donna) Byers and Mrs. Michael (Judy) Przybylski; six grandchildren and a sister, Mrs. Leonard Pratt.

FROM THE MAIL BAG: The following article was sent by Mr. and Mrs. Gabriel Campbell of Charlevoix.

"George Graff, who wrote the lyrics to "When Irish Eyes Are Smiling" died January 24th at a hospital in East Stroudsburg, Pa. He was 86 years old.

Mr. Graff had written more than 400 songs, but "Irish Eyes" was by far the most successful and earned him about \$10,000 a year in royalties until his death.

Born in New York of Dutch and German descent, Mr. Graff was living at his mother's home on 129th Street in 1912, when he wrote the song's lyrics to music by the late Ernest Ball.

Mr. Graff admitted that he had never been to Ireland.

He used to like to wander into a New York tavern on St. Patrick's Day and listen to some sentimental Irish tenor quaver through a verse or two of "When Irish Eyes Are Smiling"

Mr. Graff would then tell the singer he enjoyed the rendition and informed him modestly that he had written the lyrics.

Mr. Graff said the reply would often be: "Your're a Liar. Sure and I learned that lovely song on my old mother's knee back in Ireland."

He leaves a daughter, Mrs. Rosemary McMahon, and a sister, Mrs. Eva Muller."

"Gone but not forgotten"

Here are five of the greatest people I have ever known.

1. Father Leo McMonmon
2. Bridget MacDonald (Bid Raymond) my nurse, faithful and true.
3. John McGann (Captain and owner of Tug "Venus")
4. Lawrence J. Malloy (honest, kind and charitable)
5. Andress Gallagher (Andy Mary Ellen)

"Blessings ever wait on virtuous deeds,
And tho a late, a sure reward succeeds"

R. E. Palmer, M.D.

Ex-physician on Beaver Island

Week-end Island visitors were Dr. Jerry Suidara and wife, Pat and their children, Dawn and Kirk.

BEAVER TALES

In writing about the beginning of commercial boat traffic between Charlevoix and Beaver Island a person soon discovers that facts and pertinent information is hard to come by. Chances are, that after we have published some of these tales we will gain more information from readers who may have details that we don't and we would certainly appreciate any information obtainable about the early boats to Beaver Island.

Prior to the 1890's mail and passengers found their way to the Islands via fishing boats and lumber hookers. With the advent of steam, in the early 1800's Beaver Island soon became a fueling stop for many vessels plying the northern reaches of the lake. During the time of King Strang's era 1847 - 56, this had developed into a real business on the Island and huge piles of cord wood were kept in readiness along the docks of the harbor, to supply wood hundry boilers.

As the Island developed it soon discovered the need for regular service to and from the mainland, and yet the demand really wasn't great enough to defray the expenses of regular scheduled trips until the U. S. Government put up contracts for carrying mail. Finding boats and capable men to run them, didn't seem to propose a problem, for the northern lake country and the Islands were already well known for producing the vessels and the men for these tasks.

The earliest known holder of a mail contract went to Andy Gallagher, probably in the mid-1800's (no date available.) The mail was carried from Cross Village by sail boat. In this same era, Dan Green was awarded the contract and he too carried mail from Cross Village by Sail boat. We have no discriptions of the boats, but the popular type of boat at the time was the famed "Mackinaw" boat. These were double-enders, usually carrying a main and jib and especially sea-worthy. These boats were seldom over 36 ft. in length and often gave their passengers a ride they couldn't soon forget.

Not until the 1890's did the first steam vessel go on the run. There is no discription of it available to us but it was owned and captained by Capt. Peter Campbell and was named the "Nellie". Owing to the increase in demand for more freight and passengers, the "Nellie" soon proved too small and Capt. Campbell then purchased the "Eric L. Hackley". The mail and passenger run was now established between Charlevoix and Beaver Island. The "Hackley" wasn't a big boat by today's standards but whe was a big step up from her fore-runners.

Next month we will include a sketch of the "Eric L. Hackley" by Bill Gillespie and a history of her runs.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

PATCHES: BEAVER ISLAND PATCHES ARE FOR SALE AT LaFRENIER'S STORE. THE PRICE IS ONLY \$L.) POSTPAID. PLEASE WRITE V. H. LaFRENIERE, GENERAL STORE, BEAVER ISLAND, ST. JAMES, MICHIGAN 49782

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Contact: Joseph A. Allen
37110 Charter Oaks Blvd.
Mt. Clemens, Mi 48043

HAVE SNOWMOBILE - WILL TRAVEL: Protect your Island investment with regular off season inspections that could save considerable expense from damage due to snow loads, broken windows, etc. Inspections made by automobile, snowmobile and on foot. If interested, contact Sheldon Parker, St. James, Michigan 49782

INTERESTED IN PURCHASING BEAVER ISLAND PROPERTY - Either lakefront or acreage. Please call or write - Richard Wathen, 7000 West 16th St., Berwyn, Illinois 60402. Telephone (312) 484-5534.

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