WEARING OF THE GREEN

It ought to come in April,
or, better yet, in May
when everything is green as green --
I mean St. Patrick's Day.

With still a week of winter
this wearing of the green
seems rather out of season --
it's rushing things, I mean.

But maybe March IS better
when all is done and said:

St. Patrick brings a promise,
a four-leaf-clover promise,
a green-all-over promise
of springtime just ahead!

Aileen Fisher
Withering snow drifts and muddy roads mark another change of seasons. By the calendar, spring is here but it will take a few weeks before all the remains of the winter past have disappeared. Early signs of spring have been the return of crows and sea gulls along with the freshening southerly winds. Soon the crew of the Beaver Islander will be leaving to ready the vessel for another busy season. This year the Beaver Islander will be taken to the Soo for her 5 year inspection before her schedule starts in earnest.

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

High temperature of 33 degrees on the 18th and 21st.
Average high temperature was 26.6 degrees.
Low temperature of -8 degrees on the 22nd.
Average low temperature was 3 degrees.
High 5 p.m. temperature was 31 degrees on the 14th and 17th.
Low 5 p.m. temperature was 9 degrees on the 7th.
Average 5 p.m. temperature was 21.5 degrees.
Total snowfall for the month was 21.5 inches
Total snowfall since January 1st is 34 inches.
Total snowfall since November 1st is 59 inches.
Total precipitation since January 1st is 2.21 inches.

GAME NEWS: Increasing numbers of coyotes have left mute evidence of their prowess at killing deer as a recent survey of deer yards indicated. Two recent kills were discovered by Bill Wagner, Sheldon Parker and Buz Anderson. Many areas were not accessible so a complete survey couldn't be made plus the fact that heavy snow no doubt covered earlier evidence. To date, eight coyotes have been killed; most recently one was taken by Tom McDonough and one by his father, Bud. Ron Wojan picked one off with the assistance of Sheldon Parker's now hound. When the snow crusts to the point where the coyote can run on top of it but the deer, with sharp hoofs, break through, the balance tips in whole favor of the predator. A macabre defence of the coyote's role is the fact that they don't waste their kills, for they leave only the heavy bone and small bits of fur, thus removing much of the evidence that just might paint a more vivid picture of how much damage they really do.

Fishing just hasn't amounted to anything this winter so tall tales have been held to a very bare minimum in hopes they can be revived this spring when those big bass become fair game again.

SNOW SPORT: With the snow on the wane, many of the winter's activities can only be re-lived in the telling and as usual, the past few years, snowmobiling has headed the list.

A few weeks ago a group made up of Johnny Gillespie, Jim Wojan, Buddy Martin, Jerry LeFreniere and Charlie Martin headed out across the ice for Naubinway, in the Upper Peninsula. Upon reaching the northern end of Garden Island, Jerry's machine quit so it was left behind and he doubled up on one of the others. Weather and ice was good from that point on and they reached their destination just before dark. The next day, however was snowing and visibility nil so their return was delayed another day. The following morning was good and their return trip was without incident, including towing Jerry's machine back. No trips to Cross Village were made this year even though the conditions
were good in late February and early March. Several safaris were made to Garden Island and some made it to High and Squaw Islands. Actually conditions of wind and snow were such that often times activities were curtailed compared to previous years but who knows? Maybe next year will be the best ever.

ST. PAT'S DAY: On Beaver Island this particular day is deemed a local holiday, set aside for an all 'round good time. We had all hoped that the weather conditions would be such that all of the proposed outside activities could be carried out but though the day was beautiful, it was too warm for good snowmobiling. At one o'clock a free lunch of hot dogs, hot chocolate, and coffee was provided by the Civic Association and dispensed at the Beaver Haven Marina. Foot races were held for the youngsters and after a trail was packed across the harbor in the soft snow, snowmobile races were held on the harbor. The five fastest machines were entered in the first race. Buzz Anderson's Chapporal took first, Phil Greggs's Johnson Rampage took second, and Tim McDonough's Ski Doo took third. The second race, made up of the next five fastest was started off with Mrs. Anderson's Chapporal, driven by Jerry Lafreniere, taking first place. Tom McDonough, driving Don Burko's Johnson, taken second and Jim Wojan's Ski Doo taking third. (At least, we think that's the way it came out.) All the kids had a chance to run machines around the harbor and all had a good time. The activities were planned and supervised by June and Dick DeRosia and Ed Wojan.

In the evening, the Holy Cross Altar Society put on a delicious turkey dinner at the hall that was served to approximately 156 people. Attending the events from off the Island were Mike and Carol Quarmmaine, Amy and Mel Bauman, and the Harold Bartels family.

From all reports a wonderful time as had by all at the Chicago Party on March 11th. Those attending from Beaver Island were Loy Malloy, Mr. and Mrs. Bernard McCafferty, Mrs. Rita Gillespie and Julie and Mrs. Rose Connaghan with her sons Steve and Gerald.

GOLF NOTES: Beaver Lodge Golf Club will offer more to its patrons this year. A driving range will operate adjacent to the parking space across from the first tee. Work on the range will start as soon as the snow has gone. Robert Gillespie will manage and operate the range.

OBITUARIES: MRS. DOROTHY ANN (GATLIFF) LICAVALI: Mrs. Dorothy Licavali passed away on March 5th in Detroit, Michigan. She was born on Beaver Island, August 24, 1926. She attended Beaver Island School and was employed in her father's garage for a time dispensing gas and other duties for a time. During the summer for a few years she was a waitress at the Shamrock Bar. She moved to Detroit in the early '40's and in 1948 married Sebastian Licavali.

She is survived by her husband, Sebastian (Buster); daughters, Mrs. Robert (Kathy) Fidorspol, Ellen and Audrey; sons, Frank and Patrick; her mother, Mrs. Mary Getliff; brothers and sisters, Joseph Getliff, Mrs. Mary Robbins, Mrs. Margaret Zank, Miss Audrey Getliff, Perry Getliff, Mrs. Grace Doyle, Mrs. Eileen Flynn, Mrs. Kathleen Woods, Mrs. Ann Kurth and Robert Getliff.

Burial was from St. Ambrose Church on March 9th. Dorothy certainly enjoyed life and anyone who know her will without a doubt, miss her cheerfulness.
MRS. AGNES M. BOYLE: Funeral services for Mrs. Agnes M. Boyle, 62, were held on March 15th from St. Mary's Church, with the Rev. E. Frank Donley officiating. Burial was in Brookside Cemetery.

Mrs. Boyle died at her home in Charlevoix on March 12th. The former Agnes Sharrow was born in Charlevoix on Sept. 4, 1909, and lived here all her life. She was married to Earl Boyle who preceded her in death.

She was a member of St. Mary's Church and worked as a school custodian. She is survived by her mother, Mrs. Earl Reid of Charlevoix; two brothers, George Sharrow of Charlevoix and Robert Sharrow of Detroit; two sisters, Mrs. Mildred Frye of Charlevoix and Mrs. James Greco of Detroit.

JEFF OLEKSY: Jeff Oleksy, 4½ months-old, passed away at Little Traverse Hospital on March 12th. He is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Oleksy, 516 Noroman, Charlevoix, Michigan.

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Palmer of Beaver Island are his grandparents.

ROBERT GORDON, JR.: Word has been received of the death of Robert Gordon, Jr., 50, in Chicago on January 23rd. He is survived by his widow and three children, his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Gordon, Sr., a sister and two brothers.

Mr. Gordon was born and raised on Beaver Island.

DONATIONS RECEIVED: The last meeting of the Beaver Island Association of Michigan was held in March, 1965. After the meeting, in Lansing, there remained a balance in the fund used for expenses such as printing, mailing, stationary, decorations, etc., and it is now the desire of the Association to make a suitable disposition of the money. The officers have agreed that two worthy projects on the Island would benefit by sharing in equal amounts the balance left in the fund. It was decided to donate $100.00 to the Beaver Island Medical Center Auxiliary, and $100.00 to the Beaver Island Historical Society, with the donations to be used at the discretion of the officers of each organization. It has further been resolved that these donations be presented as memorial to the late Murray Wanty, who served as Treasurer of the Association prior to his death last fall. It is hoped that this action will have the approval of all who participated in the early activities of the Association. Any further activities of the Association will be published in the Beaver Beacon.

George L. Egbert - President
Keith Rasmussen - Vice-President
Charles C. Early - Secretary-Treasurer

PANCAKE SUPPER: On Wednesday, March 22nd, a Pancake Supper was held at the Beaver Island Christian Church. The Supper was put on by the Island people with the proceeds going to Mr. and Mrs. Frank Schnaider. There was a wonderful attendance and over $250.00 was donated by the Islanders.

Frank and Gladys have been home for a few weeks and although he returns for a check-up on the 29th, they will be home again the 31st.

WEDDINGS: MASON - WAGNER: On March 11th, at 4:30 p.m., the Calvary Baptist Church was the setting for the marriage of Miss Bonnie Jean Mason, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John F. Sipos, to Mr. Dennis B. Wagner, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Wagner, of St. James, Michigan.
The ceremony was performed by Rev. Bud Bourgeois with parents and witnesses attending. Best man and Maid-of-Honor were Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Wagner.

The bride wore a knee length baby pink dress with a pink and white bud corsage. The bride's mother wore a melon colored dress with a white corsage. The groom's mother wore a cream colored knit dress with a white corsage.

The wedding reception was held the same night at the Merritt Community Center at 7:30 p.m. There was a nice turn-out for the reception with many friends and relation attending from Flint, Lake City, Houghton Lake, Roscommon and Grayling, Burrand, Midland and Miles.

The newly couple will reside in St. James, where the groom works.

THANK YOU: To our many friends and neighbors on the Island. There is no adequate way we can express our Thanks and appreciation of the work and effort that went into the Pancake Supper for our benefit. We sincerely hope we will be able to help in some way for someone else at some future date. God Bless you all.

Frank and Gladys Schaudigol

OPEN-HOUSE: As a belated reception to celebrate the recent wedding of Dennis Wagner to Bonnie Mason of Lake City, an Open-House was held at the Wagner residence here on the Island on Saturday, March 24th. Practically everyone on the Island attended as well as Mr. and Mrs. Claude Wagner and Mr. and Mrs. John Sipes of Lake City.

The newly-weds are now residing at Lawrence and Winnie McDonough's "Green Acres" Trailer Court. Dennis will be starting to work for Walt Wojan in the spring.

NEWS RELEASES: Most every year the Island is visited by various reporters and writers representing many different newspapers and magazines, who seek stories of Island life that differ from other areas. For the most part these resulting stories are interesting and enlightening but once in awhile they come out with the facts distorted and in some ways give people a derogatory picture of island life. Following is a letter from Fr. Edward G. Donahoe, of Beaver Island and also a letter from V. H. LaPreniere, a copy of which was mailed to both the Detroit Free Press and the Catholic Weekly.

"You are familiar with the article on our Beaver Island Community School published in the February 20 issue of the Detroit Free Press. This item was picked up and published in a number of secular and religious papers throughout the Country.

While generally laudatory, the Free Press article contained a number of inaccuracies that seemed to call for correction. A local businessman sent two letters correcting those errors, one to the Detroit Free Press and one to a church paper.

Since a number of local people have received comments from friends about the article, may I ask if you will consider re-printing Mr. LaPreniere's letter in the Beaver Beacon. In that way, it will at least reach those people who are most interested in our Island.

With thanks for your consideration, I remain

Sincerely yours,

Rev. Edward G. Donahoe
Retired.
DEDICATED SISTERS:

To the Editor: With reference to the article on our Beaver Island schools in the March 3 issue of the Catholic Weekly may I say that I am, of course very proud of our school’s achievements. However, for the sake of accuracy, may I make the following observations:

1. Dominican Sisters from Grand Rapids have staffed our schools since 1899, not just for the last 30 years. As late as the mid-1940’s, this included a two-room country school about a quarter of a mile from where the Sisters then lived.

In the winter time, the two Sisters teaching there sometimes traveled by snow-shoes, and sometimes the seventh and eighth grade boys, with the energy and enthusiasm that only seventh and eighth graders have, shoveled a path all the way for them, and of course, carried their books. Apples were scarce in the winter time in those days.

2. The Sisters came here originally not because Beaver Island was poor and could not pay public school salaries, but because Beaver Island was then so REALLY isolated that individual qualified school teachers were hard to come by. Six or eight dedicated Sisters living together were able to withstand the isolation.

3. Our public school teachers are not the lowest paid in the State. At least, their compensation is a far cry from the $3,100 quoted in your article. As a matter of fact, the salaries this year range from $7,550 to $9,200. My memory goes back to the early 1920’s, when public country school teachers in Michigan received $400 per year and did the janitor work besides.

4. The teachers in our school are hired as public school teachers; they are fully certificated as public school teachers; they teach only the State approved public school curriculum; they are paid as public school teachers. To question their right to staff our school because of their private religious beliefs, THAT is what would pose a Constitutional question.

Vernon H. LaFreniere
Beaver Island, Michigan

Recently a reporter and a photographer, Andrew Malcolm and Gary Settle, from the New York Times, spent a couple days on the Island, taking pictures and notes. Their story appeared a short while ago, and though from it, one gets the idea that life on the Island is one continual party, it was written with humor based on fact rather than exaggeration.

STAR BOARDER: Milt Bennett reports that he has a new resident on his property which seems to be establishing squatter’s rights. A large raccoon has taken over a vacant dog house in Milt’s back yard and is enjoying some of the refinements of civilization while Milt keeps him supplied with meat scraps and dog food.

EAGER BEAVERS: Ten high school boys, members of the Eager Beaver Basketball team, went to Charlevoix on February 29th, where they played the Charlevoix Varsity team. The Eager Beavers were defeated by a
score of 53 to 27.
The team members were James Wojan, Tim McDonough, Richy Gillespie, Steve Conneghan, Mike Green, Mark and Carl Welke, James McSafferty, Rocky DeVogel and Raymond Cole.
The team was accompanied and coached by Father Herbert Graf.
One added note was that on arriving at the Airport in Charlevoix they found their new uniforms ready to go to Beaver Island. Needless to say, they took the uniforms with them and were all set for their first game off the Island. The uniforms are green and white and have a Beaver on the shirt designed by Bill Gillespie.
Even tho the boys lost they did very, very well for their first game and we are all very proud of our Eager Beavers.

BIRTHS: Mr. and Mrs. Mike Fogg of Holland announce the birth of a son, Jeremy Allen on February 16th. The Clyde Foggs and Henry Allens are the grandparents.

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BEAVER TALES

The following are excerpts from a letter received from Miss Clementine McSaffley.

"Thank you for the copies of the Beacon. As far as I know, no one has told the true story of how the Irish came to settle on the Island. There were many garbled stories around the Island before I left, and I am sure they have become more so, since all of the original settlers and most of the first generation descendants have passed away. So, since you are so interested in the history of the Island, I have written this just for you. Whether you use it in the Beacon or not, is up to you. This is the story as it came from my grandmother and my parents. My grandmother was one of the original settlers, and in fact, my grandfather, Conal McSaffley, piloted the boat which brought them to the Island.

"We had some interesting adventures on Squaw Island also. Just let me finish with a little orientation, so that you can visualize me in the picture. There were always a keeper and 2 assistants on Squaw Island and because it was government owned no one else was allowed to live there. After my father's shipwreck, the government forbade the wives and children of the men to live on the Island except for the months of June, July, August and part of September, so our family spent the rest of the year on Beaver Island. We lived in a house on the right of the school house as you go up the hill by the Hall. The year after my father's transfer, while the house was rented it burned to the ground. The lot was sold, and the last I heard Jewel Gillespie owned it, and it was being used as a play ground by the school children. When we lived there, there was a rough road between our house and the school, which led to the back of the Island, but when I was on the Island two years ago, that road had entirely disappeared, and the hill seemed to have leveled off more. It was a fine steep hill to slide down on, when we were children."

"I was glad to see the Church moved to the harbor and I'm sorry it wasn't done while we lived there. It would have saved many a cold walk on Sunday. It was built in the country because there were as many inhabitants in the country then as there were in town, so it was decided to build it in a place as convenient for one part of the Island as the other."
HO\ discredit THE IRISH CAME TO SETTLE ON BEAVER ISLAND

by

Clémentine McCauley

In 1847 and '48 there was a disastrous potato famine in Ireland and many entire families were forced to leave. Many came from the Island of Arranmore, Co. Donegal and settled in Canada. Among them were my grandparents, Conal McCauley and Mary Gallagher. They were married in Toronto and Conal soon became a pilot directing ships out of Canada and into the Great Lakes. The others held various jobs and some of them helped to build the Canadian Railways. One of the group became a foreman and handled the pay roll for the crew. He crossed from Windsor, Canada to Detroit, and got a job sailing on a Lighthouse Tender, a ship carrying supplies to build a Lighthouse at the Head of the Island. He wrote back to his wife that he had a job building a "government mansion" on an Island that was a paradise. One of a group of Islands that reminded him of the Islands they left in Ireland. It was "full" of empty houses left by the Mormons and there was a lumber mill at Cable's Bay and lots of fishing. She was to tell the men from Arranmore about it, and ask them to come there and to bring her and the family with them. So either 5 or 7 families (I don't remember which number) chartered a vessel and with Conal as pilot, sailed for the Beavers. Among them was one Sylvester McDonough and his wife, a Boyle family, Connaghans and I don't know the names of the other couples, but probably the Bonners. My grandmother told me that they arrived 3 months after the Mormons had all departed and the houses they left were filled with broken furniture and crockery. Why they could not take with them they destroyed. Grandmother was pregnant with her oldest son, Frank, when they arrived and he was the first "gentile" child born on the Island. (Gentile as opposed to Mormon.

The Irish lived in these houses until they could legally take out homesteads, which they did as soon as possible. Conal must have had some experience in Canada in building boats also, because he built their fishing boats at Con's point. He built a log house on the farm now owned by Donus Welko and later the Frank house there today was built. The oldest son, Frank, eventually lived there and his daughter Mornie sold the house to Donus after she move to Detroit. They all worked in the lumber mill, fished and farmed and sent money back to Ireland to bring out the other members of the families, and those they left behind in Canada were urged to come also, which they did.

Sylvester McDonough built in Sand Bay, and saved enough money to send to Ireland for his brother Tom's two young sons, Patrick and Thomas. When they too, had saved enough money they brought out their sister Ann. The three of them then sent for their parents and the rest of the family among them my mother, Mary, who came out in 1884 and later in 1899 married Conal's youngest son Owen.

There was a great emigration to the Island in the 1880's all brought out by their now Americanized relatives. England in those days, glad to be rid of the Irish patriots whom she considered traitors, passed what was called "The Free Act". This meant that all of the Irish who wanted to immigrate to America or Canada had their passage paid. Only one family who came to the Island took advantage of this, and he was...
considered a disgrace to the rest of them who were too proud to take
anything from England. But he had a good sized family and one could
blame him for seizing such an opportunity.
Thomas McDonough homesteaded the farm where the Golf Club now is. In
his son, Thomas, inherited the place and his son Leo, sold it to Matt
Melville, I believe.
In the meantime some of the Irish who had come from Mackinac Island to
drive the Mormons away (for a good reason) came to settle on Beaver
Island. Among them were the Martins, Kiltys and Boyles, and I believe
the McConnams. Willy Boyle, the son of the Boyle from Mackinac told me
many years ago, that he had written a history of the Mormons as told
him by his father. One of the Strong descendents who published a news-
paper around Boyne City some place heard of it and asked him not to
publish it until Strongs descendants were dead and gone so he gave it
to a banker in Charlevoix for safe keeping, one Bridge or Bridges, I
believe. I don't know what happened to that Manuscript. One of Willy
Boyle's sisters, Maggie was married to William Gallagher, "Bowery", as
he was called. James Gallagher of the Beaver Island boat docks and
his brothers and sisters are their grandchildren. I heard recently
that Willy Boyle's daughter Crossy, was married and living in Charlo-
voix. Perhaps they would know what happened to that important Manu-
script.
The farms on the Beavers flourished. In my father's time they grew
wheat, because he used to tell us how his father took the wheat to
Elk Rapids to be ground into flour fro their use. In my own younger
days on the Island the farmers had contracts with the Ferry Seed Co.
in Detroit to grow peas but they evidently didn't know how to rotate
their crops, and the soil was supposed to have depleted. They grew
bushels of potatoes also, and no one could beat the potatoes grown on
the Island. In those days, when farmers have better means to improve
soil, I never can understand why that farm land was not improved. Good
apples and cherries were grown there also.
There is an interesting story about how the Dominican Sisters came to
teach the public schools on the Island also. Bishop Richter came from
Grand Rapids to confirm the Island children and he met the County scho-
ol commissioner on the boat on the way to the Island. The Commissioner
told him how concerned he was about the education of the children on
the Island. He could get no qualified teachers to come because it was
so isolated. People on the Island, like Frank McCauley and Marie O'
Donnell taught what they could, but they were not really qualified.
The Bishop asked him if he would consider some Catholic Nuns to teach
in his public school and he accepted the idea gratefully. In due time
Sisters Clementine (for whom I'm named) Sister Genovieve and Sister
Eleanor appeared. The first to teach the lower grades, the second the
upper and Sister Eleanor for Music. They taught in the jail first, so
Sister Clementine told me but the Islanders were so grateful they built
whoe the present school stands. There was no place for the music
teacher, so when our house was built in 1903, and it was discovered
that we had two "perlor's" the Sisters asked for the use of one, and
my mother gave it to them rent free. They taught there until we left
the Island. In return, we three children, Alexander, Justen and myself
were given piano or violin lessons free.
The Beaver Island Lumber Company was formed in the early 1900's by
the people from Menistee and Freesoil, and brought the majority of the
Protestants to the Island. The school always had a fine reputation
though the county and for years only the first 10 grades were taught. Finally the last two were added and in 1912 one Mary Gallagher and I were the first 12th grade graduates on the Island—on the Island school I mean—others before us had finished on the Mainland. My mother died a few years later, so I am the first graduate and only graduate living from that first class and I might add, the only member of my family left. My brothers married and left 5 children in one family and two in another.

I am sorry this tale mentions the Mc Caulleys and McDonoughs so frequently, but theirs is the story I know and I must tell it from that angle. There were several different Gallaghers and McCaulley families there, as well as Bohners and many others who contributed to the Island's development. By the way, Sylvester, or "Old Vesty" as he was known, was the paternal grandfather of Lloyd McDonough and his brothers and sisters, and the Boyles who came from Canada, the great-grandparents of Russell and the rest of the Greens.

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We want to thank Miss McCaulcy for her story and we also wish to say that if anyone else would like to tell their story, we would be delighted to print it also.

Another interesting detail of the Squaw Island tragedy is that when the story came out in the December issue, Mr. and Mrs. Dominic P. Gallagher, 714 Buffalo St., Menitowoc, Wisconsin took their issue to the Holy Family Hospital to show it to the Sisters.

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