

The Beaver Beacon



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

March 1974

Old Man Winter really got shook up early this month, with strong warm winds that quickly removed practically all of the snow and ice. March and April can be pretty fickle however, so we aren't going to go so far as to say winter is over but it has been pretty hard to hold back the pangs of spring fever.

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

High temperature of 39 degrees on the 27th and 28th.

Low temperature of -7 degrees on the 15th.

High 5 p.m. temperature of 37 degrees on the 28th.

Low 5 p.m. temperature of 5 degrees on the 2nd and 9th.

Average high temperature was 24 degrees.

Average low temperature was 9.4 degrees.

Average 5 p.m. temperature was 15.4 degrees.

Total snowfall for the month was 15.5 inches.

Total snowfall since November 1st is 34 inches.

Six inches of snow on the ground at the end of the month.

Game News by Sheldon Parker: Last week, using Bill Welke's airplane, he and Bill Wagner completed putting out the salt blocks by dropping four on Garden and one on Hog Island.

Why don't we catch any perch thru the ice in the harbor? Last month, after a week of test netting thru the ice by Paul Kenwabikisne and crew, okayed by the D.N.R., and supervised by Officer Bill Wagner, the Game Club came up with the answer.

There just aren't any down there. The catch consisted of a few Menominees, some Whitefish, small Pike and some Suckers thrown in. The few perch that are in the harbor in the summer, must winter somewhere else. Perry Gatliff had better luck

with his tip-ups tho -- hauling in some nice Northerns, the largest measuring 40 inches. Wonder how big the one was that broke his line and got away. This spring, if gasoline is available, the Game Club wants to break up ground at several locations, to plant grain and clover for wildlife habitat work. There are several spots further south on the Island where this wouldn't be too hard to do. While labor for cutting deer browse, operating equipment, along with use of the airplane, tractor, etc., is all donated, we do need to buy gasoline, seed and fertilizer. The only way we have of raising money is through donations by concerned sportsmen, receipts from our Annual Dinner, Game Club Membership fees and patches, -- so if you haven't renewed your membership, or have an arm patch, now would be a good time to do it; we could sure use the money. They can be had by writing to the Secretary of the Beaver Island Civic Association, or to Bud McDonough, your new Game Club Chairman. Zip code is 49782. --- Ten Four.

Sure Sign: Spring must be on hand at the Archie LaFreniere residence. On March 9th Frances glanced out the window and saw a robin hopping around the lawn. Later, she noticed a chipmunk come out from under Phyllis Townsend's back porch and play around in the yard. Can spring be far behind?

Obituaries: Mr. Charles Philip Gallagher - Mr. Charles Philip Gallagher, age 91 years, formerly of Beaver Island, Maristee and Baywood Nursing Home of Ludington, where he lived since March 3, 1970, died after a short illness on February 19, 1974. Born on Beaver Island, December 19, 1882, the son of Philip Gallagher and Mary (Gillespie) Gallagher, he married Catherine Malloy on November 18, 1908 and she preceded him in death on July 21, 1939.

He was the father of Mrs. Hubert (Mary) Aultman of Maristee and Mrs. Joseph (Helen) Idalski of Maristee, Philip of Wyoming, Thomas, who preceded him in death, James of Pontiac, John of Maristee, Edward and Francis of Pontiac. He was preceded in death by 2 sisters, Mrs. Mary Sterling and Catherine Ries; two brothers, hon and Neil. Surviving are 3 brothers James of Newberry, Dominic Patrick of Manitowac, Wisconsin and Daniel J. of Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

He has 20 grandchildren and 33 great-grandchildren. Numerous nieces and nephews. Funeral services were held at 9:00 a.m. at Guardian Angels Catholic Church in Maristee, Michigan with Rt. Rev. Msgr. Gerard Guzikowski officiating. Burial will be in Holy Cross Cemetery on Beaver Island, in the spring.

The family was at the Herbert Funeral Home in Maristee after 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 21st, and the Rosary was at 8:00 p.m. on Friday evening.

Mr. Gallagher had a farm on the Island and carried the Mail across Lake Michigan by a team of horses and sleigh from 1925 to 1928. He brought his daughter, Mary

and 2 Mercy Nurs to the Island in 1929 due to his wifes and aunts illness. He made many Mail and Mercy trips from Cross Village to the Island. Besides farming he sailed as fireman on the Beaver Island ferry and worked on the lower lakes ferries until his retirement in 1956.

James F. Packer - James F. Packer, 68, of Fine Lake, died Saturday, March 9th in Leila Hospital. He had been ill six weeks and hospitalized since March 6th. Born in Assyria, Michigan, he had been a lifelong area resident. He had been an employee of Michigan Carton Company more than 20 years, retiring in 1971. Survivors include his widow, the former Verna M. Hall; stepdaughters, Mrs. Jean Dart, Mrs. William (Eleanor) Lillybridge, Mrs. Louis (Betty) Jackson and Mrs. Gerald (Dorisene) Lake all of Battle Creek; 13 stepgrandchildren; eight step-great-grandchildren, and sisters, Mrs. K. J. (Berrice) Nielsen of Salinas, Calif., and Mrs. Clifford (Margaret) Waisner of Orange, Calif. Services were held from the Royal Chapel on March 12th at 2:00 p.m. at the Royal Funeral Home, with Rev. Dr. George Seifert officiating. Final resting place was Oak Hill Cemetery, Battle Creek, Michigan.

St. Pat's Day: The Annual St. Patrick's Day celebration was deemed a success even though cold winds held down some of the children's activities. The day was bright however, and many off-Island residents came to take part in the first activity of the season. A hot dog and hot chocolate lunch was served from the Beaver Island Boat Dock and a hearty turkey dinner was served at the Holy Cross Hall in the evening with some of the younger school children singing Irish songs afterwards. Later in the evening, the celebration was continued with singing and dancing at the Shamrock.

First Boat: Paul Kenwabikissee, his eldest son John and Bug Anderson, departed from the Island Coast Guard Station with Paul's fish tug, "Sonny Don" on the 22nd of March, heading for Charlevoix to pick up a load of freight. High winds, drift ice and blowing snow made the return trip on the 25th a real experience; arriving back at the Coast Guard Station at about 3:30 a.m.

Continued cold weather has kept the harbor frozen solid so perhaps the Sundew may have to break it out before the Beaver Islander on South Shore can make it into the Island dock.

Boat News: For those who are planning their vacations on the Island for the week of Homecoming; that is, Aug. 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th, must buy their tickets in advance for which ever of these dates they want. The tickets will have the date and time printed on them. This, of course, is to prevent a jam up at the dock on

this, the busiest time of the season. Those desiring tickets during these dates should contact the Beaver Island Boat Company Dock Office in Charlevoix at your earliest convenience.

The Beaver Island Boat Company has also offered the use of either of their boats in the event of an emergency. In conjunction with the emergency plane, the boat would be available in the event of bad weather when the plane couldn't fly. In either case there would be no charge for their use.

Medical Auxillary News: The Medical Center Auxillary met at the Shamrock Bar on Thursday, March 21 with Vera Jimsak as co-hostess.

Planning for the summer benifet luncheons dominated the agenda. Dates for the luncheons have been set for June 18, July 16 and August 20. Main dishes have been decided. June will feature meat loaf, July - chicken salad with ham in August. Although a chairman has not been named several prospects were discussed and the April meeting will settle the matter. Summer residents are invited to join us at the Circle M for lunch as well as contributing toward the menu.

The annual rummage sale will be held on July 30. Goods for the sale can be dropped at The Shamrock or at the home of Betty Anderson on Donegal Bay. A location for the sale is still under discussion. The Auxillary is investigating a permanent site where a "Trash and Trinkets" type store can be located.

Both Robert Gillespie and Archie LaFreniere have agreed to contribute items of shipwreck to be raffled at the Beaver Island Grand Rapids and Chicago parties. The proceeds will benefit the the improvements to the Medical Center.

A special drive is being organized for the Medical Center's addition. Barbara Beckers has agreed to handle donations and a separate bank account will be opened for that purpose. The drawings for the addition are in Lansing where they are being examined to be sure they meet state specifications. If you'd like to beat the crowd with your contribution mail it in now. The address is simple:

Barbara Beckers
Medical Center Fund
St. James, Michigan 49782

The Beacon will keep everyone posted on the special plans for the Medical Center.

Business Seminar: From 11:00 a.m. 'til 5:00 p.m. on the 16th of March, a Business Seminar was held at the Circle "M" Lodge. A good turn out, representing most all the businesses on the Island listened to guest speakers in the early afternoon and spent the latter part of the afternoon in discussion.

Archie LaFreniere, representing the Beaver Island Boat Company, described the history of the Boat Company and the struggle to build it up to what it is today. The plan to operate this year out of Petoskey had to be abandoned and hopes are that in

the near future this will become a reality. New boat schedules for the 1974 season have been printed and will accompany this Beacon.

Vince Olach, manager of the Charlevoix Chamber of Commerce, talked about the many activities that could be instituted to lengthen our otherwise short season.

Sue Callaway, Assistant publicity coordinator of the Michigan Tourist Council, described the importance of preserving and reviving the Irish and Indian customs that are rapidly fading into the past. She also described the assistance that the Tourist Council can render in the way of promotion.

Herb Johnson of the Department of Natural Resources and Superintendent of the McMullen Conservation School at Higgins Lake, elaborated on the Island's most valuable assets, namely its' natural beauty, the absence of pollution, its remoteness and the quiet serenity, that properly managed, can be preserved.

Bill Carlson, a commercial fisherman from Leland, Michigan, was a last minute speaker, brought to the meeting by Don Cole. Bill gave an enlightening talk on the problems of over-promotion and commercialism build-up. He related the experience that Leland has had in this regard and how through community effort, they are now regaining control of a situation that would have spelled doom to the preservation of the little fishing village of Leland.

Letters were read, sent by Dale Boyles, cottage owner and A. J. Roy, President of the Beaver Island Historical Society.

The discussion that followed covered many problems and projects, the most vital, seemed to center around the big job of preserving what we have. This, up until more action is taken, has been the formidable task of primarily one man; A. J. Roy, who has desperately been trying to maintain a link with the historic and colorful past of the islands.

Meetings like this are one thing and action is another, however. This seminar session was attended by 52 persons, who at this time are enthusiastic about doing something, so the Civic Committee that set it up are compiling a list of projects by priority to act on and hopes are high that something really constructive will come of it.

Taxes Galore: Island property owners have been hit with tax increases for next year that have put many in a state of shock, with assessments in some cases, jumping better than 500%.

Needless to say, the local Boards of Review received a record number of protests because of it. Some have thought that those who live on the Island didn't get hit so hard, but we can certainly assure those that are of that opinion: we all got it. As land values have increased so have the taxes and the north country in general has been forced to raise their assessments higher and at a faster rate than many down state areas. It does seem to us that the Island is a different situation and

deserves a better break, for we don't have near the benefits from our tax dollars that similar areas on the mainland do, plus the fact, we have no year 'round industry.

Following is a letter submitted to the Beacon, stating the feelings of Island tax payers in general.

March 16, 1974

St. James Tax Board of Review

Beaver Island

St. James, Michigan 49782

Gentlemen:

I am writing this letter in protest to the new assessed valuation placed on my property, numbers 15 13 751 027 00 and 15 13 751 028 00, in St. James Township, St. James, Michigan.

I believe the taxes we are now paying and will be paying are far in excess of any services received. We have no sewer or water facilities, no garbage service and very, very limited fire and police protection.

The combined roads of the two townships on the Island are approximately 70 miles of which only 8 miles are black-topped and this 8 miles is in poor condition as it was cheaply done.

We have a public beach for which no county funds are allocated for maintenance, or at least this was the answer we received from our local Supervisor on the Island. There is no life guard in attendance although this beach is a play area for all the children of the Island, residents or visitors.

The side walks are in deplorable condition with pot holes, broken concrete, etc.

The main street of St. James is in equally deplorable condition. There are no curbs or gutters and if it was ever black-topped the evidence is minimal.

I strongly feel this situation is taxation without representation as our local Supervisor has no voice at the County Board Meetings. I understand a Mr. Cunningham is the Supervisor in power over our Township and to my knowledge has visited the Island only once in his life time and, therefore, could not possibly know the problems of the Island and obviously could not care since he never makes the effort to see things first hand.

I have strongly suggested to the taxpayers of Beaver Island that we form an organization and seek legal counsel to combat this unfair situation. Taxation without services received has been proven illegal in a former court case.

I am requesting a review of my increased valuation and base this request on the fact that we on the Island do not receive equal services as do other townships on

the main land in Charlevoix County. If I am to be equally taxed, I should receive equal services.

Very truly yours,
John L. Malloy

Crash Course: In preparation for the delivery of the Island's first emergency evacuation airplane, a crash course was held in the Beaver Island School's multi-purpose room, March 23rd, on emergency first aid. Presenting the day long programs were Sue Powers, Barb LaMarche and Janet Vander Molen, from the Department of Nursing at Ferris State College. Through movies and actual demonstrations, a variety of emergency situations were simulated, using the most modern methods of first aid. Dr. Christie, all the Island's nurses and a fair turn out of other interested persons, attended this informative class.

Bottom's Up: Look for and expect better drinks, more service and a cordial atmosphere at The Shamrock this summer. Your hosts Barb and Jim attended a Bartenders School and Licensed Beverage Holders Conference in Lansing, March 9 - 13. During the several days were sessions concerning beer serving, drink mixing, wine handling, sanitation, law and the problem drinker. Many new drinks were demonstrated and tested by the students. After four hours of tasting the students declared the session a (hick) tremendous success.

Senator Guy VanderJug of Cadillac, spoke to the group. His speech entitled "Count Your Blessings" reminded everyone of those things for which we have to be thankful. I hope you will have occasion to be thankful that Barb and Jim attended the school and conference. It may add to your pleasure for your vacation on Beaver Island.

Emergency Plane On Way: Last week, Jim Janda traveled to Tucson, Arizona, to pick up the surplus DeHaveland Beaver Aircraft. Being alone, the trip back was monotonous and tiring, but Jim says the plane runs perfect and that it is well equipped and is really far better than he had hoped. It will be two or three weeks before the plane will be on the Island; for the insignia, wing and fuselage numbers have to be put on. The plane is now in Fremont, Michigan where this final work is being done prior to Island delivery. In order to better describe the plane's function, we are printing the rules of its use:

Rules For Operation of U6A Beaver Aircraft

- No. 1 Primary use - Medical evacuation for critically ill or injured persons from Beaver Island with medical approval to the medical facility designated by the approving medical authority.
- No. 2 Air Search and Rescue:

- (a) Assist Coast Guard in rescue efforts of distressed watercraft, nearest Lifeboat Station 35 miles distant and nearest Air Station 75 miles.
- (b) Conduct Air Search for lost or downed aircraft in conjunction with Civic Air Patrol.
- (c) Conduct Air Searches for lost persons on all Islands in the Beaver Group.

No. 3 Sheriff Department Use:

- (a) Aid in direction of ground personnel in disaster situations on an operational expenses paid basis of a minimum of \$30.00 per hour.

No. 4 Other Political Subdivisions:

- (a) All emergency situations, when requested on an expenses paid basis of a minimum of \$30.00 per hour.

No. 5 Only approved pilots as indicated in the Insurance Policy may act as P.I.C. of this Aircraft.

Approved pilots to be available on a Volunteer basis.

No. 6 All medical evacuation from Beaver Island will be handled on a no fee basis.

No. 7 No flights will be undertaken by this Aircraft unless it be of an emergency nature or for maintenance.

Vivian Visscher

St. James Township Clerk

Betty Welke

Peaine Township Clerk

From The Mail Bag: Dear Editor of B. I. Beacon: From Martha Gallagher Zalusky

I attended the Beaver Island Party in Chicago March 9th.

Sure was surprised there was no one from the Island on Charlevoix, except your Priest Rev. Fr. Graf. Had the pleasure of serving him dinner at Rev. Fr. Bernard Scheid's, my nephew, where I am staying.

Rev. Fr. Schied gives his Parish Hall to them free. The Beaver Island people decorate the Hall just beautiful.

They sure are faithful to their home town Braver Island. I also claim as my home.

Their wives all bring lovely salads, baked beans and cakes free.

Some of the women and men they are married to are not from the Island.

The table looked like a big Banquet. The service you get is marvelous.

I enjoy coming. I meet my relatives and old friends and new ones. There are several people from Rev. Fr. Schied's Parish. I also attended the Beaver Island Party in Grand Rapids last fall, met a lot I did not see in years.

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 McGlocklin for further information - 616-448-2318 or write St. James, Michigan 49782.

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St. James, Mi 49782

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