

The Beaver Beacon



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

January 1962

***** A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OF YOU FROM ALL OF US *****

Following are some words, supposedly written by a Fra Giovanni in 1513. As a New Year's Greeting to you, I do not know of anything that could be added to or subtracted from these words. They are as appropriate today as they must have been almost 450 years ago.

"There is nothing I can give you which you have not; but there is much that, while I cannot give, you can take. No heaven can come to us unless our hearts find rest in it today, so take heaven. No peace lies in the future which is not hidden in this present instant, so take peace. The gloom of the World is but a shadow; behind it, yet within reach, is joy, so take joy. And so at this New Year, I greet you with the prayer that for you, now and forever, the Day breaks and the shadows flee away".

WEATHER ANALYSIS FOR DECEMBER: Our analysis is somewhat shorter this month as our weather man, Vernon Fitzpatrick, has been on vacation. However, rest assured the weather was not on vacation. We have had much snow.

Warmest day was December 4th with a temperature of 57 degrees.

Coldest night was on the 28th with a temperature of 5 degrees.

The most snow fell on December 12th with an accumulation of 12".

Estimated total snowfall for December is 18".

HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS: As usual, Beaver Island had many Holiday events. The school children, under the direction of the Sisters, gave a delightful program with three plays and Christmas carols. Twenty-nine Island youngsters under the leadership of Loretta Malloy, Skip McDonough, Phil and Lillian Gregg and Burdene Stromberg filled the night of Dec. 22 with music, singing carols throughout country and town and ending up their evening at the Shamrock where Archie LaFreniere treated them to refreshments. Thanks to the Islanders for their candy and cookies and donations to the carolers.

The beautiful Midnight Mass was said at Holy Cross Church by Father Lewis Wren, preceded by carols sung by the Church choir.

The Annual New Year's Eve party was held at the Shamrock, with refreshments served, compliments of Archie and Frances LaFreniere.

These events, along with many private parties made the Holidays on Beaver Island a time to be remembered, and we look forward to it every year. Our only wish is that all of you could enjoy them with us.

HERE COMES SANTA CLAUS. Mr. Pat LaFreniere who lives in Chicago, gave the Island youngsters quite a treat for the Holidays. Pat works for the Sears store in Chicago, and during the Christmas season plays the part of Santa Claus. Since he planned to visit the Island for the Holidays, he received permission from the store to bring his Santa Claus suit with him. He visited every Island youngster from the Nestle home in the country right on up the road to the very last home in town. Wide-eyed youngsters stared at him in disbelief, but his jolly "Ho!Ho!Ho!" sent them all to bed with visions of sugar plums just like the poem.

DASHING THROUGH THE SNOW: A sight reminiscent of the old days occurred just before Christmas in St. James. Peter Johnson, who is 82 years old, arrived in town in a one horse sleigh, along with a young lady and her dog. Roads blocked with snow prevented any other means of transportation. It has been some time since we have seen anyone tying up a horse in front of the Shamrock.

BEAVER ISLAND CENSUS AS OF JANUARY 1ST, 1962. We read in the Grand Rapids Press that our Island had only 166 residents. This statement prompted us to take our own census and check. We came up with some interesting facts, so Grand Rapids Press - please take note:

We have, in truth, 202 Island residents this winter. This does not include our six boys in service, or 24 Islanders who are temporarily off the Island for Holiday vacations. Other things we thought you might be interested in are these:

We have 55 individual households on Beaver this winter as compared to 47 last year.

Of the 202 residents, 93 are children under 18 years of age.

We have 26 households with children and 10 married couples with no children at home.

Of the 109 adults living on the Island, 56 moved here from elsewhere.

We have 16 single men over 18, 5 single women over 18, 15 widows and 3 widowers, along with 6 members of religious orders.

The largest family is Paul Kenwabikisse's, with 12 children at home.

The oldest resident is John Green, who says he is a very young 90 years - there is some controversy here, however, as Pat Bonner says John is 92!

Youngest resident is Ann Marie Wojan, born December 11, 1961.

Nearly all common professions and trades are represented including fishermen, storekeepers, mechanics, farmers, construction workers, tavern keepers, teachers, butcher, postmaster, doctor, architect, sheriff, mail man, wood cutters, accountant, engineers, sailors, realtor, restaurateurs, conservation officer. Noticeably lacking are a barber, a beautician, a shoe repairman, and a druggist. However, we are not a group of sick people with long hair and holes in our shoes!

MANY THANKS: At the last Civic Meeting, Rogers Carlisle read a letter of Holiday Greetings from Mr. D. J. Angus of Indianapolis. Accompanying the letter was a check for \$500.00, a donation to our Medical Center. Mr. Angus has been a most generous contributor to our Medical Center, and without him, many of the accomplishments at the Center could not have been made. Our very sincere thanks and appreciation to Mr. Angus.

BIG GAME HUNT OR SAFARI INTO THE WILDS. Mr. Roy Chambers, who trapped ninety-nine turtles on Beaver Island this summer, Roy Vincent and his son Roy, Jr., all of Indian River, and a Mr. Foxe from Rogers City brought eleven coyote hounds to the Island for three days packed with action in coyote hunting. Rogers Carlisle, Archie Minor, Alvin and Archie LaFreniere, Don Welke and Karl Kuebler also participated in the hunt.

The white hunters did not employ native bearers. Instead, the safari was a modern one with mechanized vehicles equipped with citizens' band radios, and all hunters were returned safely to camp at Frances LaFreniere's, who kept up with the chase on her own radio in the kitchen.

The method of hunting is to use one or two dogs as starters (find the coyote and chase him), then, when the coyote has begun to tire, to release fresh hounds known as killers to corner and capture the animal.

Five coyotes were captured in the three day period. Unfortunately, one of the hounds was killed by a coyote. The first coyote was killed by the dogs at the Johnnie Mooney place; the second, also killed by dogs, on the East side, west of Dr. Hetherington's cabin; the third was shot by Archie LaFreniere at Donegal Bay, the fourth was chased into a hollow log by the dogs and shot by Mr. Chambers. Henrietta Crawford spotted the fifth one as she saw it running through traffic down the King's Highway near the George Ricksgar farm. She telephoned Frances who immediately contacted the hunters by radio. This coyote was also shot by Archie LaFreniere, but as Archie said, the coyote had run out of gas and presented no problem. The gentlemen are planning to return with their dogs sometime after January 15th.

An interesting sidelight to this story is that Conservation Biologist John Ozaga tagged nine coyotes this past summer. Of nine coyotes taken this fall, none has had a tag. However, the Islanders must have their fun. John was called out to check on a tagged coyote, but to his dismay found that one of the hunters had placed a bear tag on the animal!

SPOOKS ON BEAVER? Only on Beaver Island could such strange things happen. Or perhaps Matt Melville has sent us some of the "Little People" from Ireland. But we do have proof of what we are about to tell you.

Joe Dillingham was called to adjust the church organ just before Christmas. After checking out the organ, the amplifier was left on, and suddenly Joe heard strange voices coming out of the speaker. If Joe has a few more gray hairs in his head, you know why.

Another evening, Jewell and Rita Gillespie were watching television, when suddenly the voice of Nellie O'Donnell talking to her daughter, Beverly, in Texas, interrupted the program.

We have checked all this with Joe. He tells us that on occasion these things will happen, but don't be too alarmed. It is only the voice from the Island that you hear! In the Spring, there is to be a change made in the telephone circuit so it won't happen. In the meantime, watch your language!

GOODBYE, DEAR OLD GIRL: On December 29th, the Emerald Isle ferry made her last trip from Beaver to be moored in Charlevoix for the winter months. Gus Sendenburg, who is spending his first winter on Beaver in many years, showed some feeling of apprehension as the ferry sounded her last blast on the ship's foghorn, and the answering farewell came from Dick LaFreniere's store. We watched her as she slowly disappeared with chunks of ice churning in her wake. Mail, passengers and supplies will be brought from Charlevoix via McPhillip's Flying service until April when the sailing season will reopen. And so Beaver Island settles down to a quiet and peaceful winter after a busy summer season.

BIRTHS. Mr. and Mrs. John Adams, Beaver Island property owners, are the parents of a girl, Margaret Mary, born December 4th at Kalamazoo.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Smith are the parents of a girl, Shannon Grace, born Dec. 23 at Detroit. Mrs. Smith is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Nackerman, of St. James.

Walt and Vera Wojan of St. James are the parents of a girl, Ann Marie, born Dec. 11th at Little Traverse Hospital in Petoskey. This makes ten for the Wojan family.

Gretchen and Bruce McDonough are the parents of a boy, Kelly Joseph, born December 21st at Charlevoix. Bruce is the son of Lloyd and Eva McDonough of St. James.

Mr. and Mrs. George Van Buren are the parents of a boy Scott, born December 10th. The Van Burens are the former managers of Beaver Lodge.

OBITUARIES: Mr. Walter Lyons of Chicago passed away in December. No further details are available at this writing. Mr. Lyons owned a cottage on the Island for a number of years.

Mrs. Paul L. Kenwabikissee, Sr., 76, died at Grandvue Medical Facility on December 13th. Mrs. Kenwabikissee was the former Madeline Oswanimkee, and was born on High Island. After her marriage, she made her home on Beaver Island. Surviving are a son, Paul, of St. James, an adopted son, Edward Burch of Montague and 18 grandchildren. Burial was in Holy Cross Cemetery.

Mr. Edward Minor, 75, of Newberry, father of Archie Minor of St. James, died unexpectedly of a heart attack on December 30th. Surviving are five other sons and three daughters. His wife preceded him in death a year ago in January.

HOSPITAL NOTES: A Coast Guard Helicopter was called from Traverse City on New Year's Day to take Mrs. Sydney Schochet, wife of our doctor, to Little Traverse Hospital in Petoskey. Mrs. Schochet was found unconscious by the doctor, and tests showed she was suffering from acute influenza.

Mrs. Telles O'Brien was taken to Grandvue Medical Facility on New Year's Day. Mrs. O'Brien has been in ill health for several months.

Mrs. Gus (Marie) Sendenburg was taken ill unexpectedly on New Year's Day and was flown to Charlevoix hospital for treatment.

All the above patients are coming along satisfactorily and we wish them a speedy recovery. We certainly had a busy New Year's Day.

SPORTING NEWS. The first fish shanty has appeared in the Bay. Owen Chapman decided it was time to try his luck, and on New Year's Day was seen taking the shanty out on the ice. Good Luck, Owen. A lot of us would like to have a perch fry again.

Vernon Fitzpatrick tells us that Game Division has announced plans to resume turkey trapping in Allegan State Forest. If they are successful, Beaver Island will get more turkeys. Better luck than last year, boys!

CIVIC ASSOCIATION NEWS: The Annual Elections were held on January 4th, with the results as follows: President, Bud McDonough; Vice President, Joe Dillingham; Secretary, Burdene Stromberg; Treasurer, Lillian Gregg. Other members of the Board of Directors are Joy Green, Grace Nackerman, Archie LaFreniere, Loretta Malloy, and Marion Martin. It is generally known that women control the majority of the finances in the United States and even on Beaver Island the gals are taking over. Note that we have six women on our Board as compared to three men! After the elections, refreshments were served by the Activities committee.

To those of you who have not renewed your personal membership in the Association, this issue of the Beacon is a complimentary one and will definitely be the last you will receive. To avoid missing any issues, make out your check today for \$3.00, payable to the Beaver Island Civic Association. Send to Burdene Stromberg, Secretary, along with the form below:

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____

When a bit of sunshine hits ye,
After passing of a cloud,
When a fit of laughter gits ye
And ye'r spine is feelin' proud
Don't forget to up and fling it
At a soul that's feelin' blue
For the minit that ye sling it
It's a boomerang to you.

From "The Boomerang" by Capt. Jack Crawford

And with that wee bit of advice, we end our first Beacon for 1962