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Beaver Beacon

The Island Monthly Since 1955



A Schooner Appears

The Fourth of July & Museum Week 2002

Preserving the Whiskey Point Light

The Arrival of the Camp Quality Kids

The Good Ship Grande Mariner visits Beaver Island

The Way it Was: Christadelphians in the Woods

Health Center, PABI News, Internet

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Contents



A Schooner Appears: the Sailing Vessel <i>Denis Sullivan</i>	4.
The Water is Wide	6.
Beaver Island meets the Michigan Land Use Institute	8.
The Good Ship <i>Grande Mariner</i>	10.
The Amvets March On	10.
The Arrival of the Camp Quality Kids	11.
Money and space Challenge Rural Health	12.
A Local Poet Steps Forward	13.
Preserving the Whiskey Point Light	14.
The Way it Was: Christadelphians in the Woods	15.
News from the Townships	18.
What's New with Beaver Island Internet	19.
Museum Week	20.
The Mother of all Tugs	22.
The Fourth of July	23.
The Adventures of Gray Wolf	24.
Calendar of Beaver Island Events	24.
The Cull Reunion	25.
Readers' Favorite Recipes	25.
On This Date	27.
Johann S. Bach comes to Beaver Island	28.
The Community House Project achieves Major Milestone	31.
A Possible Partnership between PABI and the C of C	31.
Weather or Not	32.
New Owners Jeff and Bill Cashman	33.

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the Island Monthly since 1955

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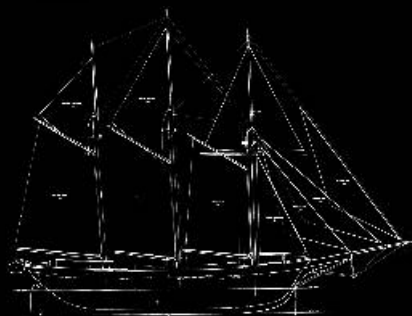
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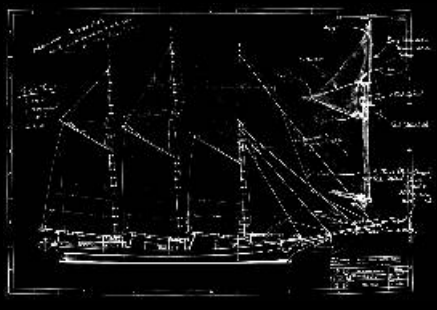
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 Length on Deck: 98'
 Displacement: 156 tons
 Gross Tonnage: 97 tons
 Beam: 24'
 Draft: 8'-9"
 Number of Sails: 10
 Sail Area: 5916 sq. ft.
 Mast Height: 95'
 Berths: 30
 Fuel Capacity: 960 gal.
 Main Engines 2 x 180 HP



A Schooner Appears, and Presents an Opportunity for Next Summer

On July 16th, Beaver Islanders were thrilled by the arrival of a Tall Ship. The *Denis Sullivan* pulled into St. James Harbor on Tuesday evening and tied up at the Boat Dock. Built by a team of volunteers in Milwaukee, the three-masted wooden schooner is modeled after the cargo haulers that plied Lake Michigan in the late 1860s.

Beside the six-man crew, sixteen teenage students were on board. They had embarked on a five day sail on this Teaching Ship, an expedition during which they would receive lessons on sailing, general seamanship, marine

biology, ecology, and history. Even though the *Sullivan* is equipped with the latest in modern electronics (and a first-class galley, where a gourmet chef prepares meals), they learned some celestial navigation--still a requirement by the Coast Guard.

The schooner took five years to build, even with the help of hundreds of volunteers, and cost around four million dollars. Every component is a piece of highly-polished art. Initially, procuring the stately masts presented a difficulty. Calculations indicated 150-year-old trees would be required,

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which only grew on the Menominee Nation. When asked for six long and straight white pines, they took offense: "Don't you realize those trees have a spirit? To cut them down would be to deprive our land of its providence." Eventually a ceremony was conducted in which the spirits of the desired trees were transferred into six saplings planted by the Wisconsin Lake Schooner Education Association, and the mast stock was taken down and delivered.

The Association offers various length excursions, from three hours to several days. They work in conjunction with schools, and instruct their partners on how to raise the nominal funds needed for a trip (\$695/student

for the five-day trip.) Once ashore, the crew and their instructors toured the Museum and took in the Wednesday Museum Week events--thanks to a donation by Rich Gillespie. They found the presentations interesting, the afternoon talk on Celtic Culture and Native American life and the evening discussion of our mysterious stone circles. Coincidentally both were delivered by independent visitors who had come from Milwaukee.

When the ship left on Thursday, a party of forty spectators formed at Whiskey Point to wave her past. Cameras of every description clicked rapidly as the wind filled her sails and carried her out of the Harbor, and talk quickly turned to the natural topic for

our civic-minded community to consider: "Why can't we arrange one of these trips for our school kids next summer?" The *Beacon* is looking into the matter, and will help organize it; contributions have already started to trickle in. The ship will be returning from a winter in the Caribbean and pass by Beaver Island in mid May; if we get on here, we'll have to pick the kids up in Milwaukee. Our second window for boarding is in Milwaukee the first week in July, with the trip ending here. Hopefully sixteen or so Beaver Island students will be on board the stately ship early next summer. Considering our rich nautical heritage, what more appropriate reward for a year's hard work could there possibly be?



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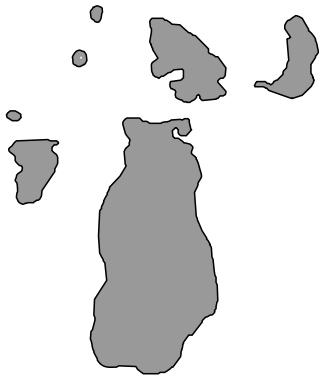
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The Water is Wide - Beaver Islanders still making a living off Lake Michigan

by Liam Racine

There is a long and ancient history of Native Americans plying the waters off the Beavers for trout, sturgeon, and, principally, whitefish. The shoals, reefs and sudden deep waters help to make the archipelago one of the Great Lakes best whitefish habitats. And so, from before memory, men have gone to sea in boats to catch these fish.

Very much like it happens today, a clear, hot July morning, as Skip DuHamel steers his fishing tug, the *Myron K*, out from Paradise Bay and toward the Island's western waters. His lone assistant, Mike Podgorski, arranges gear in the stern. The wake of the boat is spreading out like a fan, the air is cool despite the temperature, and the water is flat and blue.

Skip has been fishing for over a decade. Before basing his operation at St James, he worked out of Peshawbestown. He has seen a lot of changes, both in the Tribe as well as in the fishing industry as a whole. He answers to the DNR, to the Tribe and to the federal government. A recent treaty was renewed last year in Traverse City between the State of Michigan, the Tribe, and sport fishing interests, letting Native Americans have nearly all commercial fishing rights. The move was intended to help increase whitefish populations by

eliminating gill netting in favor of trap netting, and allowing the indigenous people of Michigan to retain one of their primary sources of income. The final document took two years to create. Passions are as high about these issues as the nets are set deep.

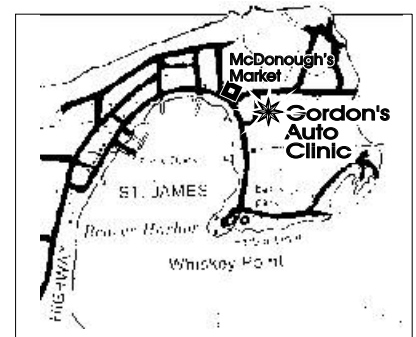
Skip's boat is from the 40s, constructed entirely from steel and powered by a Cat 3208 diesel, as trustworthy an engine as you could find. Having just cleared the shoal off Indian Point, we turn west, High Island beginning to come into view through a haze that has yet to burn off. There are four nets that we will pull this morning; and the hopes of the day are the same, be it a commercial fisherman or an eight year old with a cane pole.

Skip talks fondly of his love for the people of Beaver Island. The first year of operation was marked with low yields, old nets, and loads of repairs. Through it all, no matter what help was needed, a hand was extended. The man whose name is mentioned the most is Ernie Martin. Ernie not only helped by providing side work and tools, but his family's fishing knowledge of the area's waters has proved invaluable.

Past Sandy Island, the top of a shoal off High Island where people used to collect seagull eggs, the first net is reached. The nets themselves are like

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giant minnow traps. The door is wide and high enough to let the fish think they are swimming in open water, whereas actually they are swimming down a funnel into a box about 30-foot square. The idea is to find where schools of whitefish run, place a net or two, and hope for the best.

Whitefish yields have been down in recent years. There is no one single reason, but rather a series of dynamics all occurring at the same time: zebra mussels, the introduction of salmon for sport fishing, destroyed habitat, lack of ice cover in warm winters, cormorants, and of course the simple fact that whitefish taste so good and have been fished so hard for the last forty years. This is not the first time the whitefish population has been knocked down. Just over one hundred years ago, the decimation of the whitefish was likened to the culling of the buffalo.

When the main line has been secured around the capstan, the net is being raised to the surface. The back two-thirds of a trap-boat is open to allow the net to wash right over it. In this way, the lead line, the harness (where all the lines attach), and the funnel can smoothly cross the boat for inspection. The box follows the funnel, and with its approach Skip and Mike cast anxious eyes to the water for the tell-tale signs of a great catch.

It is not to be. The water doesn't boil over with fish; the nets are not bursting at their seams. The box is kept in the water to the port side of the boat

as Skip scoops the thirty or so fish out with a long pole and net. A mix of whitefish and lake trout are thrown into coolers, the lake trout sorted out and tossed back over the side once the net has been repositioned.

The other nets produce the same results. A weary crew begins the task of scaling and filleting. While he fillets the fish, Skip talks about previous years, about the seasons and which months yield the most fish. They had had high hopes for the first net, it having just been set in a new location, but as Skip has said, July is a terrible month for fishing; the air and the water are too warm to produce a lot of movement amongst the schools.

With the sun just beginning its slide into the western waters, we turn back into Paradise Bay. At one time this bay was so full of lake perch that it was not uncommon to catch three hundred fish in a couple of hours. Though the promise of yields like that may be a distant memory, the need for whitefish still sustains an industry. The Tribe has constructed a beautiful new dock and a building for ice. Skip has plans to put in a retail shop next to the ice building and sell most of his catch to Islanders and tourists. As long as there is a demand for whitefish, there will be Skips and Mikes, casting off lines in the dawn's light, setting out to distant nets with that same spirit that has driven fishermen in these waters for years: the hope of the catch.

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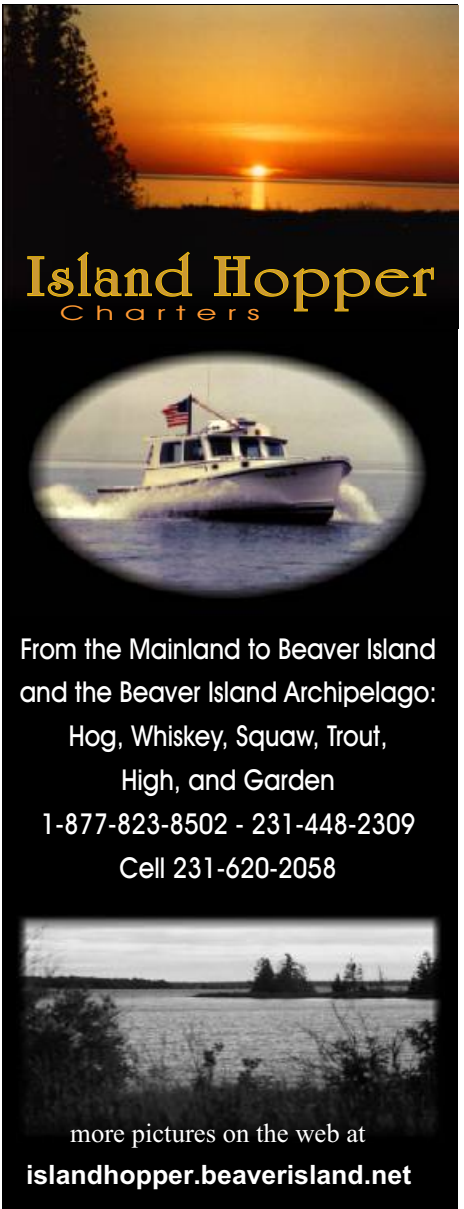
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Beaver Island meets the Michigan Land Use Institute

On Wednesday, July 24th, Jeanne and Ralph Graham hosted a reception in their home at Western Shores for the Michigan Land Use Institute, for which Ralph sits on the Board. After the thirty-six or so people in attendance had exchanged greetings and sampled hors d'oeuvres, Ralph introduced Hans Voss, MLUI's executive director. He talked about some of the issues with which the organization is involved: protecting natural resources, such as water or scenic views; protecting land by controlling urban sprawl and the proliferation of highways; and empowering grass-roots movements to take charge of their future. He recounted the help the MLUI provided to Petoskey for analyzing their beltway options, and to Traverse City in its effort to get a grip on the ramifications of the proposed bridge over the Boardman River.

Andy Guy, another member of the MLUIS team, mentioned some of the stories he covered as a reporter, such as examples of siphoning off ground water by industry and drying up wells for miles around. Founder and policy director Arlin Wasserman spoke about the pressing need for the MLUI to help communities come to terms with land use issues by defining the questions, listing their options, and having a voice in Lansing to affect law and policy and the appropriation of funds.

The audience was very receptive to the presentation; in a sense, this continued and expanded on the themes presented at last spring's Leadership Retreat, which dealt with ways we could manage tourism and growth to prevent them from infringing on our natural heritage. No particular immediate dangers were suggested that would require the MLUI's direct and immediate involvement, but the ruling emotions of those who have chosen to live on Beaver Island for at least part of

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the year seemed to mesh perfectly with MLUI's vision.

During the question-and-answer period that followed, Fred Hauboldt responded to Hans Voss' statement that one of the organization's goals was to see that MDOT repairs more existing roads and spend less money building new ones by mentioning that they might not have realized it when they flew over Lake Michigan to get here, but MDOT regards it as an extension of a highway. "They have given us a great deal of money for transportation on this waterway, and now we're after more," he added. Picking up what he took to be the spirit of this remark, Voss stated that we had an obligation to research the broad consequences of another new boat and make sure we would be comfortable with them before proceeding any farther.

The more Beaver Islanders who join the MLUI (\$25 to MLUI, Box 500, Beulah MI 49617), the more we'll be able to draw on them for help.

The next morning the four MLUI staff members were invited to a breakfast with the Peaine Township Planning Commission, which is working on an Island-wide master plan. Those present found the

message as sensible and prescient as the audience had the night before. Everyone on Beaver Island agrees we have to take steps now to coordinate our land use planning, to be as comprehensive as possible, to solicit input from every voice. Meeting these conscientious and informed people from the MLUI and developing an ongoing relationship with them can be an important step in avoiding some potential mistakes. The Island tips its hat to the Grahams for bringing this interaction about.

MAD Camp

Once again MAD Camp 2002 was a stunning success for the 40 kids who took part, as well as for their parents. After a week it concluded at the Beaver Island Christian Church, where Campers displayed their artwork. They also illustrated what they'd learned about the Middle Ages through song, theatre, and stories presented to an appreciative audience of relatives and friends. One of the best aspects of MAD Camp is that it demonstrates that learning can be fun. We are so lucky Sue Oole came up with the idea to bring it here, and also that so many others have pitched in to make it happen. Our thanks to all who took part!



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THE GOOD SHIP *Grande Mariner*

On July 27th the *Grande Mariner* floating elderhostel made its second stop (of 6 scheduled arrivals) at Beaver Island during the summer. On a typical trip, she leaves Chicago and stops at Holland, Frankfort, Beaver Island, and Mackinac. Then she cruises up the St. Mary's River and through the Sault Locks for a sniff of the colder and deeper water of Lake Superior before turning tail and moseying down Lake Michigan's west shore to complete her eight-day trip.

The passengers who came ashore here and took a tour in a Boat Company van or wandered around downtown said that the food on board was excellent. An added interest was having Fred Stonehouse as the resident historian. He spends a few hours each day telling stories from his vast amount of shipwreck lore; unless the weather is rough, in which case he switches to tales about

our early settlers on the land. All in all, the \$1,500 to \$3,000 fare seemed like a good price to those on board.

The 183'-long front-loading ship is busy year-around, cruising the Mississippi down to New Orleans in the fall and spring and plying the Caribbean in the winter.

The Amvets March On

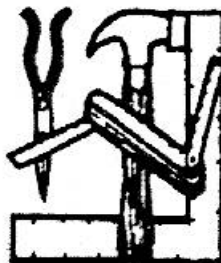
You may be among those who are asking what's going on with the Amvets, who seem to be everywhere. First it's a pancake breakfast, then a moment of respectful silence in the parade, then a pig roast, then a program to beautify Main Street, and then another pancake breakfast. The flurry of activity has a purpose: to raise money for a scholarship fund in order to award a post-freshman college student with an extra thousand dollars to start their sophomore year.



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The Arrival of the Camp Quality Kids

Once again 11 teenaged cancer sufferers and survivors came to Beaver Island for a long weekend to forget their cares and enjoy life, and had a wonderful time. Their expedition left little to be desired, even including a tour of the *Acacia* before they boarded the *Emerald Isle*, where Captain Kevin let them onto the bridge and explained how he handles the large ship. When they passed the *Beaver Islander* they blew the whistle in greeting, and were tooted back.

Once they were here they piled into two Suburbans donated by Gordy Heika, which they nicknamed *Big Blue* and the *Brown Bomber*, and headed for the Beaver Head Lighthouse School, their base camp. The next day they stopped at the airport, where Paul Welke and Keith Pintler each took half for a tour and then switched. They were flown over Beaver and the other islands as well, and driven around the back roads in high style. At a stop in the Transfer Station Doug and John were asked what a glass bottle sounds like when crushed. Not knowing, they decided to find out. *Puh-duh-ding!!*

They took sandwiches donated by Dalwhinnie to CMU for an indoor picnic. Jim Gillingham was his typical electrifying self, first putting on a slide show and then taking them on a tour of the animals boarding there, including an iguana, a boa constrictor, and an alligator. They even got to feed their leftovers to the baby pigs. After a journey to Mt. Pisgah the Youth

Consortium treated them to a spaghetti dinner at the Peaine Township Hall. They were exhausted by the time they made it back to their camp.

In the morning they stopped at the Print Shop and Marine Museum to learn a little bit about history, and then were given a tour of Protar's Home. They stopped at the Engineer's Grave, and took the steps down the hill from Zembla, pausing to meditate at the bottom. But in the mist they steps were too slippery to climb, so they came back on the road. After lunch at the Shamrock (paid for by the Charlevoix State Bank), they rented bikes and rode to Kayak Ken's. Five kids opted for a lesson; the rest biked to the Brothers' Place and then to Gull Harbor, where they waved to their friends paddling along the lake. They stopped at the Toy Museum for Harry Potter glasses, and then were given Beaver Island mousepads by Rich Gillespie downtown. Back at their camp they ate lasagne and sat around a campfire, recalling their myriad experiences.

The next day they stopped at the Big Birch, where Larry Dawson took them for a walk to the Big Rock and Fox Lake. He talked about fishing, which is now on the agenda for next year. In town Debra Harwood gave them each a lunch to take on board the ferry, where Sherri Timsak and Tammy LaFreniere had sneaked a birthday cake; it was for one of the kids, but it was so large there was plenty for all.



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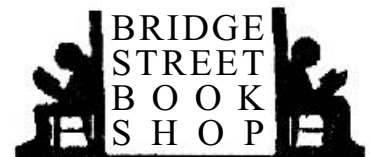
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Money and space Challenge Rural Health

by Joe Reed

The Beaver Island Rural Health Center Board confronted some urgency issues at its July meeting Tuesday the 16th. Chief among them was a budget gap for the coming fiscal year beginning October 1, and a reexamination of the plans for the new Health Center building.

The Board discussion was driven by the report of the first month's work of the consultant recently hired to study the operation of the Health Center. Among her assignments was to determine whether the Health Center could qualify as a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), which could both increase reimbursements for patient care and bring federal grants to supplement operating budgets. The conclusion: the BIRHC could not come close to qualifying because we do not have an "underserved population" or enough Medicaid of Medicare patients. The data collected by the consultant showed that out of the total 2,600

patient visits in 2001, 85% were by permanent residents, 11% were by seasonal residents, and only 4% were by visitors, a number of them guests of Island residents. Some good news for the Board is that we now have comprehensive data about where our patients come from and who pays the bills for them. This intelligence will help greatly in future facility and personnel planning.

The consultant's report also dominated the Board's review of the draft budget for 2003, which must be submitted to the Townships for their August meetings. At this point in the budget planning there is a gap of \$60,000 to \$75,000 between income and expenses, created largely by the prospect of a sharp reduction in the dollars the State of Michigan expects to provide this coming year. The Center received \$108,000 in 2002 to help pay its bills. A representative of the Department of Rural Health made it clear that we must strive to become

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A Local Poet Steps Forward

"self sufficient," starting in 2003, due to State budget deficits this coming year and going forward. The Board began making expense cuts immediately, and agreed to redouble efforts to sell all 400 tickets for the *PT Cruiser* raffle now underway.

Fortunately the \$1,500,000 the State has given to Beaver Island for the new Health Center facility is in the bank. But the prospect of a decline in outside support leading to the Center needing to become "self sufficient" is causing the Board's facility planning committee to return to the drawing board with the architects. The guiding principle is to insure that we provide for what we absolutely need to deliver quality health care services and nothing more.

Community meetings will be scheduled as soon as preliminary drawings are available.

Finally, the Board approved new bylaws and contracts with both Townships.

For years Beaver Islanders have heard about poems Robert Cole published in a California literary journal or read to a packed house in Chicago, but few Beaver Islanders had the chance to see what all the fuss was about. Now a pamphlet of his work is available at Livingstone Studio and the Beaver Boat-Tique.

These nine poems written over the past ten years contain a common theme: something else is here, something ineffable and mysterious that animates the world...something that takes a special peacefulness to receive and elucidate. It can't be named, but he can approach it in his poems. In one titled *To the Mystic*, he says "Some days the lake turns over:/everything that settled on the bottom/rises to the surface,/lifted by the sun./ A museum of debris,/all scattered on the ripples./ Anyone can see it./ Anyone who's looking." Who has not felt this happening inside himself, as old memories and hopes and plans echo again on their life-long trek to oblivion? We have other distractions most of the time, but thankfully Robert is at his post, steadfastly looking.

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Preserving the Whiskey Point Light

If there's one landmark on Beaver Island that represents our rich historical ambiance more than any other, it would have to be the Whiskey Point Light. Erected in 1856, it has shone its protective beacon to guide sailors and fishermen to safety ever since, becoming a symbol of the precariousness and hope of a life made on or near the lake. Twenty years after its construction, the Life-saving Service was started, which evolved into the Coast Guard. A brick Keeper's House was attached to the Light until Captain Bennett tore it down. (Winters, the last Keeper, was often seen hiding from his wife in the nearby trees.) A crew barracks was added, and a boathouse built in 1939.

But nothing lasts forever, and as the Coast Guard began paring down its assets there was a danger of the Light falling into private hands. But thanks

to a lot of work by St. James Supervisor Don Vyse, a renewable 10-year lease was secured 2 years ago. Now the Township is ready to take the next step and move towards full ownership.

To do this, the Township hopes to form a partnership with the Historical Society, which would help garner Island support and create a long-term development plan covering its maintenance and use. The process for accomplishing this will be long and complicated, with every step of the eventual restoration approved by the State Historic Preservation Office. But it can't start quickly enough, because as anyone sees who take a close look, the bricks are coming apart at an increasing rate. If everything falls into place, a lot of effort over the next decade could ensure that this Light continues to wash over our tumultuous shores.



The Way it Was: Christadelphians in the Woods

According to the May 6, 1892 Milwaukee Sentinel, a new fanaticism made its appearance on Beaver Island late in the nineteenth century when the small village of Belden sprang up near Lake Geneserath. It was inhabited by practitioners of Chistadelphianism, a movement that had started in England 46 years earlier and still exists today. The prophet and leader was a woman of some accomplishment named Mary Dalmater, who was known among her followers simply as Esther. She lived with Philip Barton, who went by the name of Mordeci. "They are both about 35 years of age," the Sentinel reported. "The woman especially is comely and above average in intelligence. But both have distorted their countenance and appear much older."

"Esther claims to talk with God directly," the newspaper continued. "She daily retires to her secret chamber to converse for hours with the Supreme Being." Mordeci

"preaches to large assemblages, explaining Esther's visions. Esther seldom appears in public." At nightly evangelical meetings in a large tent they called their Tabernacle, Mordeci would read verses of scripture and Esther would present her interpretation.

Another member of the sect took the name Abraham. He envisioned the Lord telling him to slay his 6-year-old son, and dutifully led him to the altar. Luckily Esther emerged from a trance and said the Lord had told her that He had changed his mind just in the nick of time. She claimed to have the gift of tongues as well, and to be able to speak in any language, including some never heard before.

A month before the terrible date of April 21, Mordeci predicted the end of the world: the "globular wad" would be dissolved, but the Christadelphians would ascend into heaven, which is why they were found on that day draped in white robes and

sitting on their housetops. The failure of the world to succumb prompted Mordeci to reexamine his computations. With some relief he discovered an error and set the new date, which apparently did not produce the expected event either.

Whispers of a con were rampant because Mordeci urged his followers to sell their possessions to a Chicago speculator, W. R. Hawson, who happened to appear. With Mordeci disdainfully fixing the price of each item he paid 6¢ on the dollar. It wouldn't matter if the world came to an end, but when it didn't, several people were quite upset.

Little is known of their fate, and they do not appear elsewhere in the records. One theory is that since they planted no crops because the end was nigh, when winter came they had no choice but to pick up and leave. The next year, Feodor Protar arrived. A coincidence? A present-day diviner supplied this answer: "I think not!"

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The Heavens Above



Nancy Combs, summer resident and Beaver Island property owner since 1962, passed away on June 23rd at her long-term residence in Lexington, Kentucky. Nancy was the widow of Dr. Arnold Combs. The Combs were brought to the Island originally by the Bliss and the Ratleff

families. Rod Ratliff was Arnold's medical school roommate. The Combs first purchased a cottage near Mike Boyle's Beach, and then bought the Ludwig home at Sand Bay.

Nancy loved the 6 to 8 weeks she spent here every summer, volunteering at the Historical Society and Christian Church for several years. When her illness kept her from coming back two years ago, her many Island friends wrote and phoned her to wish her well. She was the first of what has now become four generations of Combs to enjoy Beaver Island.

In addition to her three children, Mary Logsdon, Nancy Maffett, and Jim Combs, she is survived by four grandchildren and one great-grandchild. In her last years of illness, she surrounded herself with pictures and memorabilia of Beaver Island. Contributions in her memory can be made to the Preservation Association or the Christian Church.

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Ruth Hirschey, 69, of Beaver Island, passed away on Saturday, June 29th in Corpus Christi, Texas. Ruth Evelyn Farney was born in New Bremen, New York, and married Bill Hirschey on June 26, 1954 at Sampson AFB in Genoa, New York. In 1963 the family moved to Crystal Lake, Illinois just before Scott joined siblings Bill, Larry, and Karen. Ruth was a homemaker for many years and was employed at the Crystal Lake School District #7, where she was instrumental in keeping things on track. For years she suffered through one after another of the Cubs' losing seasons.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Lawrence and Leona Farney, and her sister Rita. She is survived by her husband William, daughter Karen and sons Bill, Larry, and Scott, grandsons Garrett and Owen Patrick, sisters Marge and Jeanette, and her brother Ralph. She will be greatly missed by everyone who knew her.



The Cemetery Cross

After years of research, discussion, and wishful thinking, Holy Cross Catholic Church finally decided to place a cross at the Holy Cross Cemetery. Built by master craftsman Dan Gentle and set in a base created by Ray Matela, it sits in the northwest corner of the area currently holding graves. It was commemorated in a multi-denominational service held on Saturday, July 27th.

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News from the Townships

Peaine Township: Regular Meeting of July 10, 2002.

Members present: Works; Martin; Nelson; Lanier. Absent: Kubic.

MOTION Works, second Nelson: to approve the 6-12-02 minutes; Approved. MOTION Nelson, second Lanier: to approve payment of current bills; Approved. MOTION Works, second Nelson: to approve the Beaver Island Rural Health Center Contract contingent on the modifications of the by-laws by the Medical Board; Approved. MOTION Lanier, second Works: to contribute \$50.00 to the Presidential Freedom Scholarship Fund for the Beaver Island Community School; Approved.

Judy Lanier stated that the Master Planning launch effort has begun. The first meeting was held on July 9, 2002, with many attending to understand the issues and just hear from the people of Peaine Township. Future meetings will include the history of planning and land use.

Paul Nelson stated that the MTAC chapter annual picnic is still scheduled for August 24 at the Peaine Township Hall. John Works reported that dust control was applied to the roads. The cost of the liquid was 80¢/gal. Gary Voogt came up with a figure of \$900,000 to asphalt Slopstown Road to the Beaver Island Airport, providing no trees have to be taken out or no widening of the road done.

John Works would like to remind people to vote for the Road and Airport renewal millages at the August 6th Primary Election.

Pam Grassmick presented a sign by the BIPOA giving the message to keep the Island clean. The idea of putting up the signs on Township property was well accepted if the signs could be wooden and not advertise the BIPOA.

More road signs are needed, but the CCRC will only install metal signs, although they will purchase a router so we can make our own wooden signs.

Public comment: Frank Blatt reported on the Airport Committee meeting; topics discussed were tie-down fees, five-year Development Plan, and abandoned cars. Rod Nackerman mentioned how nice the Airport is looking. Fred Haubold suggested the Airport Committee have more frequent regular meetings. He also questioned Connie Wojan about the Medical Center's accounts receivables. It appears there has been large amounts of write-offs due to uncollectible patient accounts. He will attend the next Medical Board meeting to get some answers. A joint township meeting with the Medical Board and consultant is scheduled for August 21.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

St. James Township: Regular Meeting of July 3, 2002.

The annual \$450 fee for the use of the Public Access at Beaver Island Marine was discussed at length, because the access is sometimes blocked by other watercraft tied up at the Marina. A letter will be sent to Beaver Island Marine requesting the access always be open for use.

The shrubbery around Main Street/Michigan Avenue has all been replaced and will require weekly watering until mid September. The Fire Department will take care of the watering. The new shrubs were placed without further cost.

Township Engineer Gary Voogt gave a final report on the

2001 Beaver Island Improvement project. The Main Street/Michigan Avenue, Back Highway, Sewer Project, and Boat Company parking lot are complete. The paving work at the Township Airport is also complete, but a section of trees still has to be cleared. Final figures have been settled with the contractors, but all paperwork has not yet been signed. The Main Street/Michigan Avenue portion cost was \$1,592,000, which was 13% above the grant. The Township has received the final figures and the balance will be paid from Township savings funds.

Plans are going forth for the bike path, as to exact placement along Donegal Bay Road. If all the details can be worked out and money received, construction hopefully will begin in early September.

Vehicle tracks tearing up the new grass were recently discovered at the new septic/drain field site.

The Township purchased bags of chloride, which are stored at Wojan Excavating. Property owners may pick up 2 or 3 bags.

What's New with Beaver Island Internet

Although the promised high speed NLOS wireless and cable modems from Wireless First have been delayed, there is some very good news for current Island dial-up users: GLE will be stepping in to provide service to BIIP customers beginning September 1st (with the only potential delay being the provisioning of new lines from TDS.) GLE will replace the existing glitch-prone BIIP equipment and the now older, slower modems with all new equipment. The Island POP will consist of a more robust and easier-to-keep-running router with the majority of the equipment on the mainland where it can be serviced. The existing 24 analog lines will be replaced with forty-eight v.90 56k lines. While not the 20x speed increase wireless and cable promise, moving from 33.6 to 56k (with real world speeds in the 40s) will offer a noticeable improvement to most people, with the exception of those with very poor phone lines. And for those who are really desperate for a faster connection, GLE's equipment will support multilinking (using more than one modem to achieve a higher connect speed.) GLE went on to say that all @biip.net email addresses will still work. GLE will also offer extended telephone support, which should be a nice improvement over waiting and wondering when the system will be restored after a storm, for example.

Though a firm date has not been set, GLE also will offer line-of-sight wireless starting some time during the fall for those within a 9-mile radius of the base station if a line of sight can be achieved. Pricing should range from \$40.00 a month for residential to \$70 a month for businesses.

The other firm competing for business is Tim and Jane Dwyer's BIIC - Beaver Island Internet Company, which also plans to begin service around the 1st of September. The rates are equivalent, so the battle is between a large company with a lot of funds behind it and a small, local company with an on-Island operator. Stay tuned for the results.

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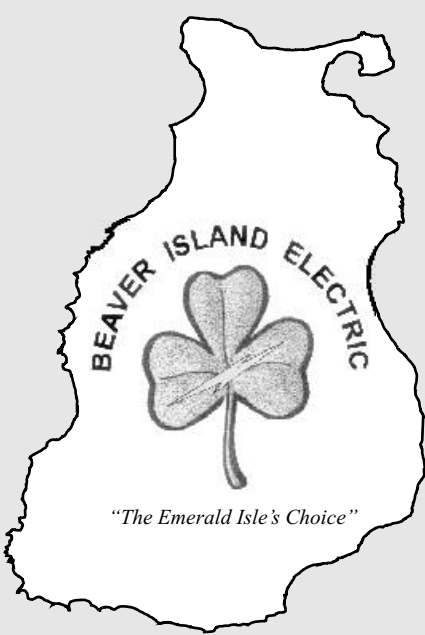
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Museum Week

When people make their plans to visit Beaver Island, they generally have three target times. If they can get here for the Fourth of July, they can see how many people can fit on the Island by counting heads at the Parade. Homecoming offers them the opportunity to rediscover why they've held a grudge against someone who might be their secondcousin for forty-two years. But **Museum Week** allows them to sit back and relax while a few more pieces in the mosaic of our heritage are filled in.

This year the staff of the Historical Society knew they were headed for good things when the weather finally cooperated for Monday night's traditional **Music on the Porch**. After several stormy years it was held on a balmy night, and each of the dozen musicians responded with an excellent performance. Glen Hendrix set a high tone at the onset with a half-dozen Irish jigs, followed by Signe Thomas' tap-dancing routine. Folk singers were abundant, including Island troubadour Barry Pischner,

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who included his song on the *Bradley*, which appears in the new history book, *Volume 5*. The two most appreciated acts were *Northern Lights*, four Island women (Mary Kay McPherson, Wendy White, Patty Cull, and Nancy Butler) who harmonize and play bass and guitar, and the Community Choir chorale group, well coached by Kathy Speck, which fit together all the parts of their songs with great depth and nuance.

Once again **Antje Price** played a prominent role, contributing a Door Prize for the art show (won by Ruth Benjamin), opening the Protar Home two afternoons, and talking about slides she made from pictures she has taken over the last fifty years during her annual visit. She has a fine eye, and the background to be able to see things in a broad context and anticipate what will become important.

CMU also played a major role. In addition to letting the Historical Society sponsor its regular schedule of **Nature Walks**, it ran three more during Museum Week--with all the proceeds going to the BIHS. And the most popular presentation, once again, was Jim Gillingham's mesmerizing presentation of **Amazing Amphibians and Reptiles**. This show is a must for kids, who once again squealed in delight as the snakes were brought down the aisles by Jim's assistants and the panic-stricken parents scrambled for the door.

Wednesday saw two interrelated themes: John Lorenzen's afternoon talk about the correspondence between Celtic culture and Native American Life, and, in the evening, Andrew Jacob's analysis of Beaver Island's **stone circles**. John listed affinities in art, music, and religion that implied these two disparate cultures had evolved along parallel paths. Then Andrew took this line of thought one step further. After introducing a recent discovery of a stone configuration that mirrors the

constellation Virgo, with the stones' size chosen to represent the brightness of the stars, he brought forth evidence, at first anecdotal but then somewhat specific, that Celts came to midwest America and marked their arrival on Beaver Island by rearranging rocks to hold ceremonies of thanks and transformation here.

Robert Cole's presentation of his continuing **Oral History** work was very well received. Especially the tape of Earl Gallagher, who told the story of an infirm Islander during Prohibition who turned to moonshining to make a living, and did well enough to buy a new Ford when the uninsured one he owned was in a barn that burned down. He was finally caught, but the judge sympathized with him and only gave him a fine, saying "How could I put a poor soul like you into prison?" "So, he never made moonshine again?" Robert was heard to ask. Earl corrected him with his reply: "Not so, but he was never caught again."

The Ray Denny Memorial **Art Show** was a success, as was the **Pet Show**, in which a dozen pets won certificates of honor. Throughout the week old-time Islanders arrived and introduced themselves; plenty of Culls and O'Donnells, the daughter of Barney Mooney, some Strang descendants, and the granddaughter, from San Jose, of Agnes Bird's sister, her first time here to see the place that plays such a prominent role in her family's stories. This is another reason why Museum Week is so important, besides raising funds and promulgating information about the Historical Society's projects: it makes it possible for people to more firmly touch their roots.

And of course it would not have been possible without the strong continuing support of the merchants, particularly the Emerald Isle Hotel, the Bluebird, Haggards, McDonough's, Dick Burris, Ron Wojan, the Boat-Tique, John Works' Golf Course, Ray and Grace Matela, Roy Ellsworth, Out on a Limb, Rich Gillespie, the Beaver Boat-Tique, Dick Burris, Johnny B, Montague, and the Charlevoix State Bank. Thanks to their generosity, Museum Week was an unqualified success.



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The Mother of all Tugs

Early in the morning of Sunday, July 28th, the mother of all tugs limped into Paradise Bay, broken down and escorted by a smaller tug from the same line. The *Barbara Andrie*, owned by the Andrie Marine Transportation and Construction Company of Muskegon (known all over the world for cement, oil, and steel transport, harbor development, shoreline protection, and underwater pipeline installation), is 120' long and develops 3,400 horsepower, but all that size and power did not help her in the face of a mechanical breakdown. Nor was her proud boast ("My sister ship won the 1998 International Tugboat Race in the Detroit River!"), or the fact that she is named after the owner of the company, any help. When she broke down, she was as helpless as any other disabled craft yet she looked so very powerful when tied off at the end of the ferry dock.

Library News

On July 8th, the Beaver Island Library set a record by serving 250 adults and 46 children. A week later a lightning storm knocked out the internet service, and the number of patrons dropped substantially.

Speaking of the Library's internet service, GLE offered to continue providing the same service as BIIP when it takes over, only more reliably. Because the use of its internet terminals is increasing, some members of the Library Board and Staff feel building an addition out the back into which the terminals could be moved and expanded, keeping the noise and distraction away from the users of other services, is only a matter of time.

Historical Society

The Beaver Island Historical Society will hold its **Annual Meeting** on Thursday, August 22, at Peaine Township Hall at 7:30 p.m.

The quarter mill of property tax is up for renewal. This has given us a solid basis for operating. We are very thankful to have received it in the past, and hope it is approved again. Please vote Yes on this on August 8th!



The Fourth of July

The post-9/11 patriotic attitude so prevalent throughout America was certainly evident in Beaver Island's well-attended Fourth of July parade, and when the two National Guard fighter jets flew over and then made a second pass, the thrill that swept across the onlookers was larger and more pronounced than ever before. The Island Airways' planes followed up with their *Missing Man* formation, producing another shudder of pride in the back of our collective neck.

Over 50 floats and groups of marchers gathered at the top of Daddy Frank's hill to start the new route – the new curbs prevented the use of part of Main Street. Everyone wanted to get in on this event, from the police and fire department and EMS to the local businesses to groups of tap-dancers, horseback and mini-bike riders, platforms of people celebrating by singing *Born in the USA* or, in the case of Joddy's talented family and friends, the more laid-back mellow refrains for which he is known. Marching veterans stopped on the return trip for a ceremony in which the names of the missing were read, followed by a moment of silence.

The water-balloon aspect of the parade got a little out of hand and turned into a wet T-shirt contest, but because of the heat, nobody complained. The distribution of various pieces of candy was equally intense; even with Joddy playing his role of *Clean-up Man*, kids were still finding tootsie roles two and three days later. The carnival that followed on the Rectory lawn gave many the chance to prolong the festive moment. In the evening everyone came back to town to watch the fireworks, which proceeded with more quick bursts of various sizes and colors. From some vantage points the rim of high land circling the bay created an echo effect, doubling the spectacle. When it was finally all over at 10:45, we had a colossal traffic jamb on the roads leading out of town. Nobody minded: the sight of a few hundred sets of headlights in the rear-view mirror solidified the sense of this being a community which, in times such as these and despite the lingering existence of a few disputes, will pull together. That was the theme: Americans first, but also Beaver Islanders.





The Adventures of Gray Wolf

A few years ago, when one of his grandkids asked Don Butcher (Donna King's father) to tell him one of his hair-raising stories of flying up to sportsman's Canada, his wife said that it would save a lot of time if he'd put them in a book. The idea stuck, and he decided to act on it. Now he's almost through the 1st printing (1362 books) and is making a few changes before bringing out the second edition.

On Saturday, July 27th, he appeared at a book-signing party at the Beaver Boat-Tique and sat out a brief rain-storm under a sheet tent rather than retreat inside and disappoint his many

fans. There's something about flying a seaplane into the northern wilds, which he did for over 40 years, and catching a pike too large to wrestle into the canoe, or having a moose that should have stayed down from the first shot rise up and charge, that excites almost everyone.

In a sense, Don's full career as a sportsman was a lucky break. In 1947 he was working as a machinist in Hamtramck when his doctor gave him the glum news: a year and a half to live, if he was lucky. Deciding not to spend it in the city, he bought a resort on Lake Otsego outside of Gaylord and moved north. His business took off; he now has 14 employees.

He began taking friends across the border to enjoy the little time he believed he had left. Maybe it's true that the days you spend fishing don't count against your allotted time, but for whatever reason, he's still going strong. And, perhaps more importantly, he's still happily married. The secret? Here's his smiling wife's version: "I never once told him he couldn't go fishing."

Calendar of Events

- Aug 6 Election Day
- Aug 7 St. James Twp. Meeting
- Aug 8 Blood Drive (at BICS)
- Aug 9-11 Homecoming:
Softball Tournament
- Aug 10 Homecoming Dance 9-2
- Aug 11 August Dinner 4:30-7
- Aug 13 BI Transportation
Authority meeting noon
- Aug 14 Peaine Twp. Meeting
- Aug 18 PABI Sunset Picnic
- Aug 21 Joint Township Meeting
with the Medical board.
- Aug 22 BIHS Annual Meeting
7:30 pm
- Aug 24 Peaine Twp. 155th
Celebration; MTA
chapter picnic
- Aug 25 AMVETS pancake
breakfast 8:30 am Holy
Cross Hall
- Aug 27 Ladies Golf Tournament
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The Cull Reunion

One hundred and sixty-six Culls and O'Donnells (a different branch from last summer's reunion) got together in mid-July to reestablish their family network. The events for the long week-end were well orchestrated, with a Bar B Q at Roland Cull's on Friday, a dinner and dance at the Hall on Saturday (with everything decorated in red, white, and blue), and volley ball, swimming, and tours of the Island the rest of the time.

Our local pros were on stage for the dance: Edward, Rich, Danny, Paul Niehaus, and Dick Wathan, with six-year-old Jewell accompanying most numbers. Yellow T-shirts were passed out with a map of Beaver Island, in case anyone got lost. At Friday night's Bingo game, Culls went on a roll, first winning \$50, then \$100 (by another couple in yellow), and then \$200.

Saturday night, when it was time to break up the party, Danny sang *Goodnight Irene* two, three, maybe four times. It wasn't that people didn't get the message; they were just having too good of a time to want to go home. In the end, new friends were made for life.

Recipes from our Readers

Nancy Osman assures us that her husband Mitch's culinary talents are never so finely displayed as in his *Pork Chops Osman*, which has long been a favorite at Club Beaver, located at Isle's End. The recipe was invented by Mitch's grandfather in Turkey decades ago, and produces a meal of unparalleled succulence and tenderness.

Before you begin, procure these ingredients: 4 to 5 pork chops (rib, center cut, from McDonough's Market); 16 oz. Coca Cola Classic; soy sauce; sesame oil; fresh ground pepper; Tabasco Sauce; dark rum; and olive oil (1 tablespoon.)

- 1) Heat olive oil in a large skillet until very hot.
- 2) Place the pork chops in skillet and brown on one side with heat on medium high.
- 3) Drink one shot of rum and one swallow of Coke.
- 4) Turn chops over to brown, keeping heat on medium high.
- 5) While chops brown on second side, place 1 to 2 drops of sesame oil and Tabasco Sauce on each chop, as well as

- ground pepper (three turns of the mill.)
- 6) Place 1 to 2 tsp soy sauce on each chop and turn heat down to medium.
- 7) Drink two swallows of Coke.
- 8) Add 6 to 8 oz of Coke to pork chop pan, up to top edge of chops (do **not** cover chops!)
- 9) Cook vigorously uncovered until Coke is thick and syrupy (5 to 10 minutes; do **not** burn.)
- 10) Turn chops and repeat steps 5-9.
- 11) When Coke is again reduced to syrup-like thickness, lower heat and turn chops once or twice to coat.
- 12) Drink ½ shot of rum and add the rest to the pan.
- 13) Remove chops to platter.
- 14) Stir rum into Coke syrup and heat briefly.
- 15) Spoon syrup, 1 to 2 tablespoons, over each chop (along with any pork chop fat that remains in the pan.)

Serve with cold Coke Classic, mashed potatoes, and tossed salad.
Bon appetite!

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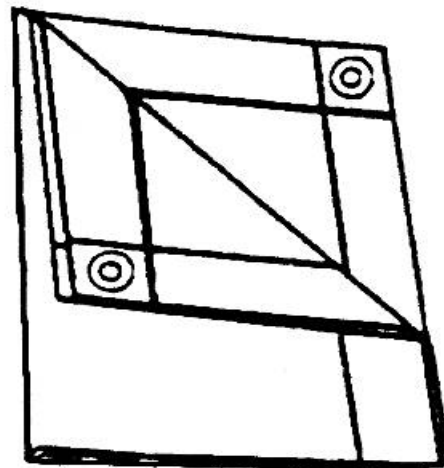
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On This Date:

Ten years ago:

This was the last issue before Paul Glendon took over and upgraded the format and graphics, including the masthead that ran for almost ten years.

This issue reported the results of the election for Supervisors: in Peaine, Joan Petrak outpolled Dick Burris, and in St. James Neal Boyle beat both Liz Clapham and Edward Palmer, who were tied three votes back. At the County level, Rich Gillespie outpolled incumbent Walt Hufford for a seat on the County Commission, based on Rich's opposition to hiring a county administrator.

Two accidents of note were reported. In the first, a man fell off his sailboat 9 miles out of Charlevoix. His wife turned into the wind, dropped the main sail, switched on the engine, circled back, and threw him a life sling, but he had hit his head and was too exhausted and chilled to climb back in the boat. Luckily Kevin McDonough spotted the problem from the *Beaver Island* and pulled alongside. Crew member Tom Burzyck and passenger Lee Cobb dove into the water and got

the man back in his boat, and then administered first aid and brought the sailboat into St. James Harbor.

In the second, a 1959 Cessna 179-A crash-landed on Gull Island (12 miles west of Beaver) on August 16th after the engine failed. The pilot, Richard Stone, and his passenger were shaken up and taken to Traverse City by the Coast Guard helicopter. "He would've done all right but he hit a log on the beach and damaged the nose gear," Paul Welke said. Paul was one of the first to respond to Stone's mayday, arriving about a minute after the plane went down. Two Cessna 172s that dropped from the skies of northern Michigan in the preceding month did not fare as well.

Forty Years Ago:

Burdene Stromberg was the editor, and the *Beacon* was produced on a Gestetner mimeo machine. Circulation passed two hundred.

The featured story was about the overdue arrival of the new ferry, the *Beaver Island*, on July 27th. After a prayer by Father Wren and a rendition

of the *Star Spangled Banner* by Mrs. Paul Heflin, she was christened on August 5th by petite Mrs. Mary McDonough, mother of the captain (Lawrence.) "She handed her purse and her bouquet of roses to her son, took a good look at the bow of the boat, and gave a hefty swing with the bottle of champagne. The bottle broke, but most of the champagne landed on Captain Forrest Pratt, who was standing nearby." Following the ceremony, 80 people got on board for an initiation run to Charlevoix for a celebratory dinner. Many were allowed to take a turn at the wheel.

The tragic death of fisherman Matt Jensen was also reported. Born on Garden Island, he had moved to Beaver, and the sight of his boat, the *Captain Edward*, coming into the harbor loaded with whitefish was a highly-anticipated event. On July 28th he left Beaver, and was reported the next day. On the 30th the *Captain Edward* was found beached near Manistique, and his body was in the surf not far away. An autopsy revealed the cause of death to be a heart attack.



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VOTE Christina M. Morgan

(Tina) wife, Mother, Nana

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2002 Election Dates
Primary: August 6
General: November 5

Johann S. Bach comes to Beaver Island

by Doris Larson

"The family that plays together, stays together." This familiar saying took on new and delightful dimensions Sunday, July 28th when J.S. Bach and friends offered an evening of music to appreciative Islanders. Eight of the nineteen musicians in the Instrumental Ensemble came from two families! Director Charles Krutz must have been delighted to perform with his daughter, Holly Lutz (violin), his grand-daughter, Katie Lutz (cello) and three other grandchildren: Tim, Anna, and Elizabeth Lutz.

John (bass) and Sandy (flute) Gerrish have three children who came to the island for the event: Philip (violin), Deborah (viola), and Elizabeth (cello). Ivan Suminski, one of the Gerrish's grandchildren, also participated. One can't help but speculate about what holiday events must be like for these two musical families. Imagine retiring to the living

room after Thanksgiving dinner for several Bach minuets played by violinists spanning three generations!

In spite of the intense heat, more than 125 people crowded into St. James Episcopal Mission church for Sunday night's performance. Folks trying to beat the heat lined the wheelchair ramp and a few clever souls brought chairs and enjoyed the music while sitting on the lawn.

The breeze outside must have been wonderful but it would have been a shame to miss the visual aspect of the concert. Professor Krutz portrayed J.S. Bach, dressed in a white, curled wig, red cutaway coat and knickers, long white stockings, and a shirt with lace collar and cuffs. Bach's trunk contained many unusual and ancient musical instruments, including the zink and several lovely brass horns. Meistro Krutz played them all!

Charles Krutz has had a long-standing love affair with the music of Johann Sebastian Bach; in 1985, he toured in a one-man show, portraying Bach in 240 concerts in 36 states.

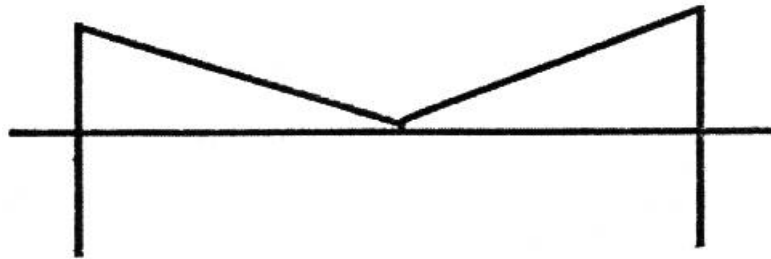


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Since then he has continued tours with a Bach Aria Group and a Chamber Music Ensemble on the Nebraska Arts Council Touring Artists Program. Mr. Krutz's choice to bring "Bach to Beaver" has evolved from his regular visits to Beaver Island during the last 25 years. Charles is a life-long friend of summer residents Marty and Jane Maehr.

Seeing Bach in the "flesh" was surely memorable but the highlight of the evening was the Three Minuets from the Anna Magdalena Notebook, performed by four of the Gerrish and Lutz grandchildren. These young people played flawlessly and with amazing concentration! Ivan Suminski (age 5) was an inspiration!

Other musicians in the instrumental ensemble included Jason Economides and his wife, Patty Baser, both members of the Grand Rapids Symphony. Beaver Island's own Joe Moore (a former member of the Grand Rapids Symphony) added his talents to the violin section, and claims he hasn't had so much fun in years. P.J. Neihaus played the flugelhorn on one number and Jane Maehr contributed her piano playing skills on the continuo. Jeanne Howell was the event coordinator as well as one of the flautists. Thank you, Jeanne, for all your work, and thanks to all the musicians for contributing their time and talents to bring such a wonderful musical event to the Island.

Any performance of music by J.S. Bach must include choral selections. A group of Island singers made up a choir, and after four rehearsals with Mr. Lutz they made a lovely presentation of "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring," "Now thank we all Our God," and "Alleluia" from Cantata No. 79. Marianne Weaver, one of the sopranos in the chorus, pre-

sented "Sheep May Safely Graze." Her clear, pure voice was suited to that lovely selection. Other chorus members were: Soprano: Christy Albin, Annette Dashiell, and Krys Lyle; Alto: Peg Hoogandorn, Doris Larson, Judi Meisster, and Jean Palmer; Tenor: Bill Detwiler, Bob Hoogandorn and Chris VanLooy; Bass: Phil Becker, Martin Maehr, P.J. Neihaus, and Earl Seger.

Don Vyse, Citizen of the Year, acted as M.C. for the evening, engaging in dialogue with Bach prior to each selection. There were even a few unrehearsed jokes, and Bach drew a chuckle with a comment about politicians. The five Brandenburg Concertos were lovely but "Air" (Suite No. 3 in D Major) and "Sinfonia" (from Cantata No. 29) were so entrancing that members of the audience could understand the quote from H. Walcha which was printed in the program, "Bach opens a vista to the universe. After experiencing him, people feel there is a meaning to life after all."

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The Community House Project: a Major Milestone

by Judy Lanier

Beaver Island residents came through again by raising a half million dollars to match the challenge grant of two anonymous donors, who between them pledged \$250,000 last summer if other Island residents showed their support by pledging an equal amount within the year.

These matches primarily came from an on-going effort to solicit support from Island residents. The early success of the "Founding Families" program shows the high level of interest and support from the families contacted so far. Their response demonstrates the enthusiasm for retaining Beaver Island's character by recreating the old Dockside Market while also making a place for the community to gather. As part of this ongoing effort, PABI will contact other Island "Founding Families" to assist with its remaining challenge.

We've received an additional challenge from a previous anonymous donor, who has offered another \$150,000 if we match it in the next twelve months. Like the others, it is

dedicated to the construction of the Community House, and requires more matching pledges to become a reality. Approximately \$125,000 remains to match. If we can do this, we'll have \$800,000 available for this project. Fund-raising will continue, but now there remains little doubt that the Dockside Recreation and Community House will become a reality.

This project involves the recreation of the Dockside Market, a once familiar landmark in the center of St. James. The recreation on its original site will include the use of the preserved façade, which was carefully taken down, numbered, and placed in a secure and dry storage building. The two-story building will approximate the original footprint, with modifications designed to enhance its ability to fulfill our needs. It will welcome residents and visitors to the heart of the harbor and town. Its Welcoming Center, Youth Center, and a Community Forum Center for special activities will help actualize and heighten our common bond.

Possible Partnership: PABI and the C of C

by Steve West

PABI President Judy Lanier appeared at a Chamber of Commerce meeting and proposed a partnership regarding the Community House's Welcome Center. On Beaver Island the Chamber plays a role similar to what it does in most communities, dispensing information to thousands of interested people who call, send an e-mail, or simply drop in when they arrive.

This promising course of action will be thoroughly discussed. Hopefully the Chamber will operate the Community House's Welcome Center.

Beaver Island publicity continues to snowball. Executive Director Steve West appeared once again on a talk radio show, as did Bill Cashman. *Conde Nast Traveler* discovered Beaver Island and gave its loyal readers a choice between going to Monaco in the south of France or coming here. Thanks to Jeff Cashman's graphics, both *Great Lakes Boating* and *Lakeland Boating* previewed the Island in extended feature articles in their recent issues.

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Weather or Not

by Liam Racine

In the immortal words of REM, 'shall we talk about the weather?' Or, in lyrics from another song of the late Eighties, 'everywhere you go, you take the weather, take the weather, take the weather with you.' Or maybe to be more precise, no matter what happens down here, the weather will be what it will be and there isn't a bloody thing we can do about it.

And the weather in August promises to be HOT. Hot and muggy. Weather so thick you need a skill saw to cut through it. Weather only reptiles can truly appreciate. Thank God we're surrounded by water, because we're going to need it. Sunscreen number 4000 might, MIGHT, do the trick. We're talking U.V. rays as big as Saturn's rings.

Still, its cooler up here than it is in the rest of the country. While you're popping a tab, pulling a cork, or just stirring some fresh lemonade, remember that the heat index in the Beavers is less than two-thirds of what it is in New Orleans. No wonder they sans tops down there.

This heat should float right into the first week of September, when Mother Nature reminds us that we live above the 45th parallel. Until then, all thoughts of leaves being any other color than green aside, enjoy the warmth and stay as cool as possible, because 'cool is the rule' and 'no matter where you go, there you are.'

Always remember: this is not the cruelest month. That dubious honor belongs to April.

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New Owners of the Beacon Jeff and Bill Cashman

Due to the ever-increasing demands on their time made by the Stoney Acre restaurant, Liam and Marilyn Racine have sold the *Beaver Beacon* to long-time Island residents Jeff and Bill Cashman. Jeff is well-known for his graphic design, and Bill's articles have been appearing in the Island newspapers and newsletters for some time.

Asked about their mission and policy, they indicated it would be formed by their experience over the next few months. They want to continue the improvements begun by the previous owner, and include extended coverage of features and several new columns. They are very receptive to input, suggestions, and contributed articles.

"We really enjoyed putting together *Discovering Beaver Island* two years ago and we have appreciated all the support we have received from the community," says Jeff. "The Beacon seems like a great next step for us. It will allow us to spend time enjoying the Island and learning about new projects which will shape it's future. We look forward to hearing from the community, taking pictures, and working with others to create a lively and interesting magazine which connects Islanders both on and off the Island with news and events and also shows the best of what Beaver Island has to offer. We are excited to see where we can take the Beacon, and look forward to input from our readers, contributors, and Islanders alike."

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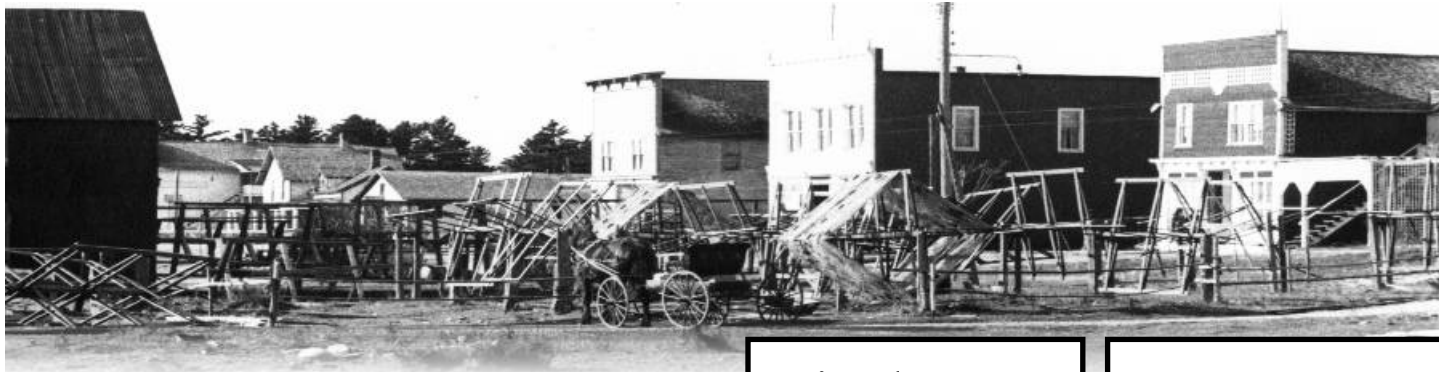
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