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Beaver Beacon

The Island Monthly Since 1955



Plans for the New Medical Center
Here is the Church, here is the Steeple
Mel and Judy Bellamy
Remembrance Day
Mary and Marge do the British Isles
The Way it Was: Stanley Floyd
On this Date, Election Results, Learning to Survive
Stories, News, History, People, Events, and Lots More



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Beaver Beacon

the Island Monthly since 1955

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The Way It Was: Stanley Floyd

Long-time Island resident Stanley Floyd, who passed away in 1999, was a student of human nature. He collected historical tidbits, some of which made their way into a book he published in mimeo form. Here are some excerpts:

"Years ago a fellow named Jim Thomas came to Beaver Island to raise trotting horses. After awhile he gave up, selling some and taking a few with him. He did leave the stud here, and within a few years everyone had a good driving horse—the only means of transportation in those days. Either by sleigh or by buggy. They would have races, which were fun to watch. Others wouldn't let their horses run, as they thought as much of them as did of themselves. The last thing they did before going to bed was see if the horses were alright.

"Then came the automobile, and the runaways started—as the horses had never seen or heard of such a thing. They would start acting up and usually break a shaft or two and take off for home, leaving the buggy somewhere in the woods or caught in a barbed-wire fence.

"The only bad accident I heard of was John (Shoemaker) Gallagher driving home one evening. He couldn't make the turn off Paid een Og Road. The buggy rolled there,

killing him. He was the last one here to have one of the old style carriages, like the ones you see in western movies. His team could really run; one of them was a speedster who won a lot of the bare-backed races.

"Another accident was when John Grill was courting Maggie O'Donnell. He had a run-away at Kringe's Bridge. He was thrown into a barbed-wire fence, giving him a long scar on his face.

"When I was a young fellow, Karl Left and William (Brutz) Boyle had the contract to haul the mail on the ice, about two trips a week for eight or ten weeks.

"I recall my dad going several times. One time Karl Left and Joe Floyd were coming to the Island with the mail, and 2/3rds of the way they came upon a big crack in the ice. The normal procedure was to unhitch the team, take them across on a plank, and then pull the sleighs over. This time they got across with the team; looking around, they saw an ice shove and had to move away from the crack. A moment later the sleighs and the mail and everything else disappeared into the bottom of the lake. The postmaster made a report, and before long the inspectors showed up. They were there often; I recall them coming as late as that summer to see if the men would

change their stories. There was a lot of twine for the fishermen in the load, and it was insured, so I suppose they thought this was like a train robbery, only on the ice.

"They thought it could take as much as 10 or 12 hours to make the trip from Cross Village, the ice being so rough. Occasionally they would have to make 40 miles a day, coming in well after dark. They had a shanty on Hog Island where they sometimes left a spare horse so they could change horses if one of theirs got tired. If it was a good, cold winter without much wind, they could make a trip in a day. I recall one day my dad went with Joe Left, leaving the beach about 7:00 a.m. When us kids went home for noon lunch the horse was at the Post Office. People thought they hadn't made it across, but they had; I recall them telling how the horses hadn't quit trotting, all the way over and back.

"This horse was one Joe Left had to buy because Harlem's horse, which they had used, got sick. He sold it. When Harlem got back from a trip, he met the fellow, who said, 'Say, Harlem, that horse you sold me died last night.' 'That's funny,' Harlem replied. 'He never did that when I had him.'

"The following year my dad, Nels, and Eddie Bowery went to



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Veteran's Day

Cross Village. They ended up in Charlevoix, and after a day or two my dad bought a 1924 Dodge touring car and drove from the south pier into St. James' harbor. That was a first.

"Some years later Charlie Martin met me on the street and said, 'I'm going to Cross Village in the morning; want to come?' I agreed, so at daylight we set off with Emmett McCann and Archie and Pat LaFreniere. The going was real good. Charlie and I decided to go to Charlevoix, and the others came along. The next morning we picked up a load—20 cases of beer for McDonough's Market and material for the Roosevelt School--and started back. We had a good crossing, so went back for a second load. We hit a crack at Rouse's and blew a tire, but still made it in 55 minutes. It was getting close to St. Patrick's Day, and the Irish were getting nervous that there might not be enough beer. We loaded another 20 cases the next morning and went down to the beach, but the ice was breaking up. So after lunch we headed for Mackinaw City, and crossed the ice to St. Ignace and headed west. Reaching Naubinway after dark, we put the old truck in a hay barn. We took two cases to a dance, and a good time was had by all. The next morning we drove home, to the relief of the Island."

At the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month our Veterans held a ceremony to honor those who didn't return from our foreign wars. The event took place at Holy Cross Church, and was attended by thirty people plus the school kids from across the street. It opened with a recital of the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a recitation of *The Ragged Old Flag* by Phil Gregg, who apologized for Mel Bellamy not being there: "he was supposed to

speak, and although he left Fondulac yesterday, he hasn't made it back yet." Phil's natural conversational style was the perfect medium for the homily on the American Flag, a recounting of the tough times it has seen us through, which ends with "On second thought, mister, maybe I do like to brag/because I'm mighty, mighty proud of that ragged old flag."

Bob Hoogendorn closed out the ceremony by playing *Taps*.



Changes at Island Airways

Until April there will be no charge for prescription medicines at Island Airways. During December they will pull your car out of the snow at the Charlevoix terminal for

free. Those who must travel due to illness may qualify for assistance. The frequent flyer program's points not used this year will be rolled over to next year.



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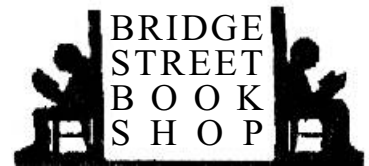
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Lighthouse School News

This year the Beaver Island Lighthouse School celebrated its 18th consecutive year of providing an alternative education opportunity. Last May it graduated nine students, including Island-born Rachel Davis and Pellston's Mathew Taylor, who won first place in the Crooked Tree arts competition and was accepted at the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe. During the last year Matt has sold several of his dynamic paintings at over \$150 each.

Lighthouse School's "Haunted House" A Great Success

Four years ago Doug Marvin (site manager of the Lighthouse School) and the students decided to create a Haunted House to entertain Islanders on Halloween. The first year they had only thirty or so people make the trip down to the South End. But they did it again and again, and every year things got more creative and elaborate. This year, due to the imagination and hard work of the students and staff, the best ever Haunted House scared the pants off everyone who visited.

The eerie tone began on the descent down the long staircase into darkness. Cold, clammy hands were felt on shoulders as strobe lights and acid-rock music imparted the feeling of stepping into another dimension. The first display revealed a young woman hanging from the open door of a clothes dryer, bloody and mangled. Moving forward, sights of a gruesome knife murder and a liposuction surgery gone wrong kept

Toys for Tots

This year Connie Boyle is again managing the "Ellen Welke Memorial Toy Drive" program, in its 11th year. The toys she collects go through Social Services to disadvantaged kids in Charlevoix County, including on Beaver Island. Anything donated (bring it to her or leave it in her or Neal's car) should be left unwrapped so it can be targeted to the right recipient. The drive to collect these gifts will run until December 16th. Any questions, call her at 448-2491.

the horror building. Young men covered in blood danced demonically to the heavy beat. It truly gave the visitors a *Blair Witch Project* feel as they made their way through the displays. To the relief of all, caramel apples and cider were served at the end to help calm tense nerves by a hairy-chested man in a tutu and a women dressed as Norman Bates' mother.

Several people commented that it was the scariest Haunted House they had ever seen. About 115 people came down, and more than \$130 was collected. This year's Haunted House has been the most successful so far. The students typically donate the money back to the community by way of a contribution to the Medical Center or some other Island charity. The Lighthouse staff and students deserve a big round of applause for providing the opportunity for old and young alike to be truly terrified.

—Jane Dwyer



Here is the Church, here is the Steeple

On November 12th the Episcopal Church received the new cedar log steeple recently built by Island woodsmith Dan Gentle, who used the same consummate craftsmanship he brings to all his work from gazebos to custom cabinets to spiral

stairways. This is taller and sturdier than the original steeple, which was part of Paul Nelson's design and built by Bellaire Log Homes. The original steeple was also cedar, but it sat right on the shingles without any flashing, and eventually was done in by rot.



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Mary and Marge do the British Isles



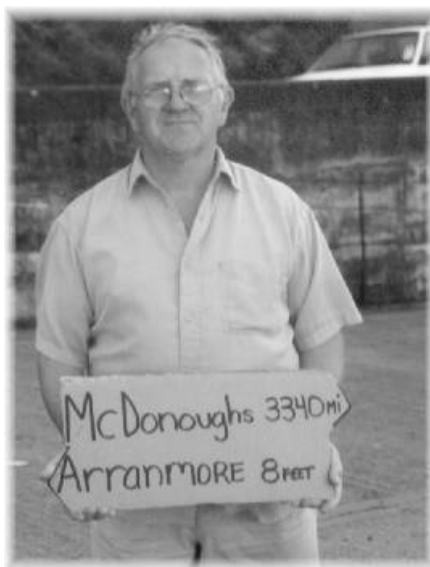
Mary at Blarney Castle

Long about now many snowbirds are planning for a trip south, to Florida, Texas, or Arizona. But two Island women, Marge Peters and Mary Stewart Scholl, chose to leave early and go a little farther. They decided to give themselves a well-deserved reward for their years of grinding it out by flying to London, renting a sporty little car, and seeing just how much they could take in on a madcap, two-thousand-mile-plus tour of the British Isles.

Their first foray took them south, to Stonehenge, where they spent a half day absorbing the ambiance. That eliminated the bad taste left by London, where the prevailing opinion was that a person's value was measured by how well they followed the rules—and as long as the Londoners were following the rules, the barest civility to others would suffice. But

rural England, where they could stop in a pub and chat with the locals whenever they felt like it, garnered them several opinions that were both off the wall and from the heart.

After a few days they put their car on one of several ferries in their itinerary and crossed to Ireland—and then to Arranmore. Unfortunately the body of a young woman who had died in a car crash was coming home on the same sluggish boat, and there was no impetus to throw a party for the two ebullient Beaver Islanders. The somber mood was matched by the weather, a grey day with a cold wind



McLeod gravestone, St. Clements

blowing the fine gravel over the rocky and undershrubbed landscape. Yet our plucky ambassadors were able to pick out several familiar faces. "Look, he's got to be a Martin," was a typical guess—and time after time it turned out to be so.

They wound their way through the countryside on narrow back roads, with Marge doing all the driving and Mary furiously snapping pictures out the window of all the unusual sights. Many houses were built so close to the road that stepping out the front door was the same as stepping into the street. But the flowers were wonderful, the scenery grand, and oh the people: friendly, picturesque characters whose energy was totally absorbed in living out their unique viewpoint and stories. In each little village they were invited to stay.

They visited Marge's great-aunt in

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Cobh Ireland - the last stop of the Titanic

Scotland who did their laundry. Down the road they were chased away from a picturesque lake by a pack of angry swans. As they caromed north, they drew closer to Mary's primary goal: the mystical Hebrides Islands off Scotland's northwest shore, a primitive and magical place long at the top of her wish list. The four-hour ferry ride brought them to a rustic fishing port, bursting, like much of the countryside, with color and quaintness. They came upon giant old oak trees, abandoned stone huts and

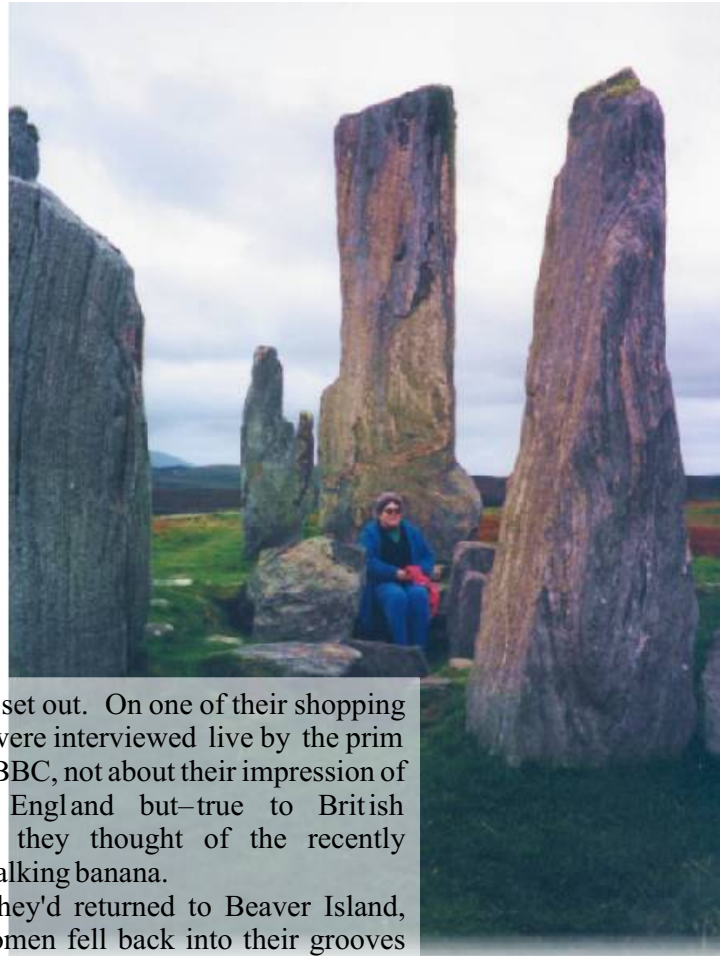
walls, narrow, twisting roads threaded through the lakes and streams, and the beguiling but dangerous moors, blooming with heather and wild iris. At one stopping place their hostess was a McLeod, whose ancestor's image had been carved on a burial stone a thousand years before. Of particular interest were the 500-year-old+ St. Clements' Church, newly rebuilt at a cost of \$5,000,000, and an 8,000-year-old monument on the Isle of Lewis, the 15'-high standing stones of Callanish. Everything about the



The Isle of Skye



Bath England



trip this far had opened Mary up, and when she stepped in front of the tallest stone in this megalithic array, a bolt of electricity zipped through her with amazing slowness, although from Marge's perspective only an instant elapsed. Clearly the message was, *thank you for coming; your efforts will prove worthwhile*. Back on Beaver, other visitors to Callanish revealed that they had experienced the same thing.

Finally it was back to London for four days seeing the typical tourist spots. They visited the Tower of London, Buckingham Palace, and the stubby quay from which the

Mayflower set out. On one of their shopping trips they were interviewed live by the prim and fussy BBC, not about their impression of jolly old England but—true to British form—what they thought of the recently invented walking banana.

Once they'd returned to Beaver Island, the two women fell back into their grooves with renewed energy—enough to keep them going until they can save up another \$3,000 (the amount they each spent; everything was reasonable, but it was downright cheap in Ireland, which had adopted the Euro) to go someplace as wild and invigorating again.



Above: Circus in Blackpool closing in October; Top: Marge at Blarney Castle garden

Above: Hebrides - the Isle of Lewis; Top: Mary sitting on 8000 yr. old stone at Callanish
Photos by Mary Stewart Scholl

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The Reciprocal Visit

Only two and a half years after the Arranmore Islanders descended on Beaver for a twinning ceremony, friends of Beaver Island will travel *en masse* to this west-Ireland island early next March. Many times during the interim one person or another has said, "Let's go," but it took the organizational talent of Cindy Gillespie-Cushman and Paul Cole to actually set a date. At

present 40 people have committed, from Bay City, Charlevoix, Chicago, and Beaver itself. The main body will depart O'Hare on March 5th (and return on the 12th), with others leaving earlier and taking their time to travel from Dublin. There's plenty of room for more on the wind-swept, craggy turf, and our sister island has issued an open invitation: "Come one, come all!"

Letters to the Editor

The Debate about the Coyotes

As most of you are aware, my wife Wanda and myself are long-time visitors for 30+ years—9 of those as full-time residents.

I have been a breeder of beagles for many years. Normally I keep four to chase the cottontail and snowshoe hare.

On Saturday, November 9th, my beagles chased a hare into a cedar swamp and were attacked by a pack of coyotes. Luckily they escaped with a few bites to their head and neck. I took them to Jeff Powers and he put in a few stitches to close the wounds, and gave me some antibiotics. The beagles are doing fine, but are still somewhat in shock.

Two months ago another beagle was attacked and was not as lucky: the coyotes ruptured a blood vessel and the dog died on the spot. Two of my beagles are very young, and they were terrified as they ran toward the truck.

As the debate continues, there are mixed opinions about the coyotes. Some feel we should declare war on them and eliminate them, while others feel that we should not mess with mother nature, as all animals, including the coyotes, have a place in our wilds. As for myself and my beagles which became victims of the coyotes, I'm going to take the middle of the road. If they are over-populated and are a nuisance, then let's devise a plan to control them, as we do with other animals—such as by issuing doe permits to control the deer herd.

I realize there is a hunting and trapping season for the coyote. However, since there seems to be little interest from hunters in availing themselves of this, perhaps a debate to go to Plan B might be in order.

What do you think?

—Dave Roop

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Learning to Survive

In mid-November Ken Bruland showed another facet of his multi-talented personality by teaching survival skills to the 9th and 10th graders at the School. This followed the on-the-beach astronomy classes he gave every Monday night last summer (attended by as many as 15 people) and came just before his conversational Spanish class got underway.

The Survival Class began with the 17 students meeting in the classroom to discuss techniques. The second day, after a half-hour lecture the students went outside to try walking in a straight line using a compass. The next two days involved 3-hour field lessons, first for the 9th-graders and then for the 10th-graders. The field experience saw the group head from the Christian Brothers to a predetermined spot on Font Lake's shore using only a compass, followed by a kind of scavenger hunt for cookies and hot chocolate: to claim the prize, they had to follow clues found on notes attached

to birch trees. The older group had the added challenge of circumventing a swamp using the "box technique."

There was a final follow-up session in the classroom to review the experience and be prepped on other tricks not used during the field test: paying attention to the sun (or moon or stars) and wind, and learning how to work out from a re-chosen reference point. Even though we're on an Island and can't get too lost, it's easy to get turned around and not make it out of the woods in time. Just ask Mike Russell, who once again had to organize a search party to find a hunter lost after dark in the beaver swamp south of Hannigan's Road.

Ken hopes to give the course again in the spring. And then again next fall, for hunters a week before the season opens. But the conventional wisdom gleaned from other wild areas is that those who might become lost are too stubborn (read 'macho') to ever submit to such a course.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Island Residents,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as your District 6 County Commissioner for the next two years. You can be assured I will continue to work with and for all the Island residents.

—Shirley Roloff (231-547-6169)

Letters to the Editor

Thanks for your Support!

Please accept my heartfelt "thanks" for your support in the general election, and be assured that I will represent *all* of Peaine Township. I am very excited to represent Beaver Island in Township government.

—Christina Morgan



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News from the Townships

Regular Meeting of St. James Board, 11-6

Board approved the Nuisance Ordinance. No further changes to the issue of burning within the Township.

Board approved the fuel oil bid of \$1.45/gallon from Martin Gas & Oil. Board approved the reappointment of Jean Palmer to the Library Board for 4 years. Board gave approval to Supervisor Vyse to sign the necessary engineering documents for the Yacht Dock project.

A special use agreement with the DNR was approved for the Sheriff Sub-station building.

BITA appointments were tabled until the full Board is present.

Board heard from adjoining property owners to Indian property on Michigan Avenue regarding unsightly conditions. Letter will be sent to Tribal Council requesting cooperation to clean up site.

Cars illegally parked at new Township septic system/drain field will be moved as soon as paperwork is in order.

Location uncertain for a flagpole donated by Bill Hirschey as a memorial to his wife.

Regular Meeting of Peaine Board, 11-13

Works, Martin, Nelson, Morgan present; Lanier absent.

MOTION Works, second Morgan: to approve the 10-9 minutes; passed. MOTION Works, second Nelson, to approve the payment of current bills; passed, with Morgan opposed because bills don't have a check number. We will look into this for the next meeting.

The DEQ permit application for dredging the mouth of Cable's Creek has been submitted. Mr. Sullivan's permission is needed to take equipment across his waterfront.



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MOTION Nelson, second Morgan, to approve Special Use permit for the Bill Wagner Memorial Campground; passed. MOTION Morgan, second Nelson, to approve Special Use permit for the Sheriff's Substation; passed.

The Township audit has been completed and copies will be available at the Township Hall during the supervisor's office hours on Friday afternoons.

The airport millage was passed in the General Election. MOTION Works, second Morgan, to levy 0.5741 mills for the Airport Fund; passed. MOTION Works, second Morgan, to amend the total millage to 8.8610 mills for the 2002 tax year; passed. MOTION Works, second Nelson, to accept Tina Morgan's resignation on the Board of Review; passed.

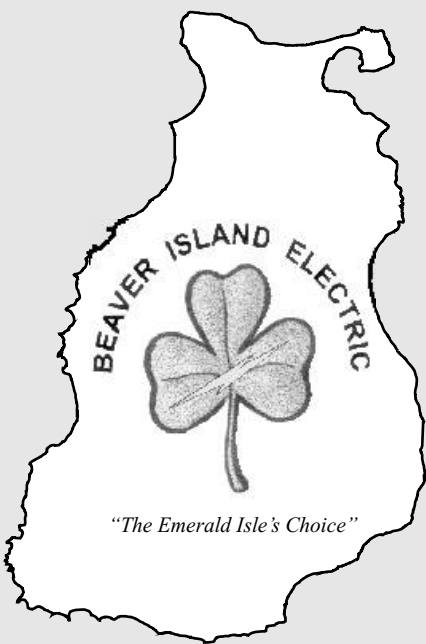
The Medical Center will hold a special meeting with the architects on the plans for the new facility on 11-20.

Public comment: Terry Saxton suggests that concrete strips tied together should replace the gravel on the launch ramp at the Bill Wagner Memorial Campground.

Some Election Results

On November 5th, 202 of the 242 registered voters voted in Peaine, and 169 of the 266 registered voters turned out to vote in St. James Township.

	<i>Peaine</i>	<i>St. James</i>
Airport Millage		
Yes	103	n/a
No	65	n/a
Peaine Township Treasurer		
Christina Morgan	111	n/a
Write-In	81	n/a
County Commissioner District 6		
Shirley J. Roloff	130	110
Joseph King	26	10
Write-In	10	16
Governor		
Posthumus	101	87
Granholm	81	76



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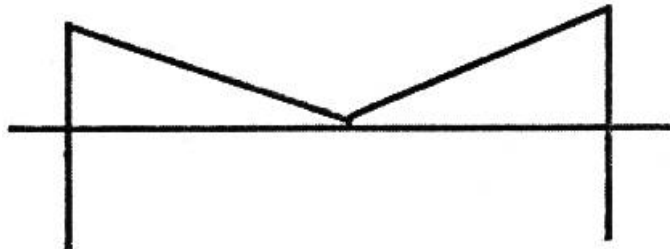
Health Center Building Project update

On November 20th, over 50 Islanders assembled at Peaine Township Hall for an update on the new Medical Center—the second chance for community input on the plans. After Gary Damstra welcomed the group, Don Spenser gave a brief overview of how the project has come this far. It began with a Task Force in 1999, he said, which studied the Island's medical needs. It quickly became obvious that a new Medical Center would be the best solution to

our shortcomings. A \$2,000,000 grant was obtained, but almost before we could celebrate it was vetoed by the governor. Thanks to some astute lobbying, \$1,500,000 was reinstated, and property for the facility was donated by Jeff Traudt. A donation of \$30,000 funded a study that set the needed size. Three architectural firms specializing in medical facilities were interviewed and Hobbs & Black was selected. The drawings the project architect, Kevin Kerschbaum,

presented represented the 4th draft.

Mr. Kerschbaum took the floor to talk about the site plan, floor plan, and a rendering which were displayed in large format on easels. The site plan showed the eventual outcome of several stages of construction, which would start with a 7,600 ft² medical center, followed by the first of 3 six-unit connected Senior Housing buildings. The driveway for patients was separate from the one for the EMS and the staff (which would



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come over Carlyle Avenue) and from the one for the nearby senior housing. Most of the intervening space was kept wooded, although it later transpired that some of this greenbelt would have to yield to septic fields.

The floor plan showed a large one-story building on a slab, with a central hallway lit by clerestories and subsidiary halls. The EMS would enter from the east, medical patients from the north, and dental patients from the south. A lot of thought went into arranging the over-thirty rooms to maximize patients' privacy.

The rendering showed a building with much fixed glass. It endeavored to use "local low-maintenance materials, such as cedar shake siding, and to fit in with the established Island architectural motifs," which the architect reviewed.

When the meeting was opened for questions, several hands were raised. People wanted to know about operating costs. Seventy percent of the current operating budget is for staff, which was not expected to expand, so that part would follow a normal curve, it was said. And the balance might remain reasonable, because the larger

space would be offset by better materials and controllable heating zones. \$200,000 of the grant is expected to be left after construction, and the interest from this could help defray operating costs. In addition, improved billing and coding systems will increase the income derived from each patient encounter, and more money will come in from the gradual growth of the Island. Still, one voice expressed the idea that costs would inevitably go up, and since there is no firm plan (other than to apply for grants and launch a capital campaign) to meet them, this would inevitably become a tax liability to the Island.

In response to a question about the recent dispute with the EMS, it was pointed out that Joe Moore had been at the previous day's Med Center Board meeting, and the improved communication was allowing each to understand the other's viewpoint so they could move closer to a solution. Part of the problem was that the EMS was not directly solicited for design input, and they began to feel left out, but at this point their absolutely indispensable value was acknowledged. As for their being excluded

from occupying the new facility, it was pointed out that they typically are located at fire departments or in their own building, not at hospitals, and thus the architects were not directed to consider facilities for EMS during the design and planning process.

Another bevy of questions concerned the omission of an ICU. Sometimes the weather simply won't let anyone fly, it was pointed out (we might have 20 situations a year that require air evacuation), and if this happens we'd better be well-prepared to keep a victim alive until the weather breaks. The answer was that the new facility will eventually be equipped to do this; idiosyncrasies in the rules keep rooms from being labeled as ICU even when they are being designed to function as such. This is similar to how the Med Center was originally classified as a hospital, but lost that designation when rules and scrutiny were upgraded even though nothing about its service changed at that time.

Another question concerned equipping the new building. This problem has not been solved, it was

Continued on Page 20



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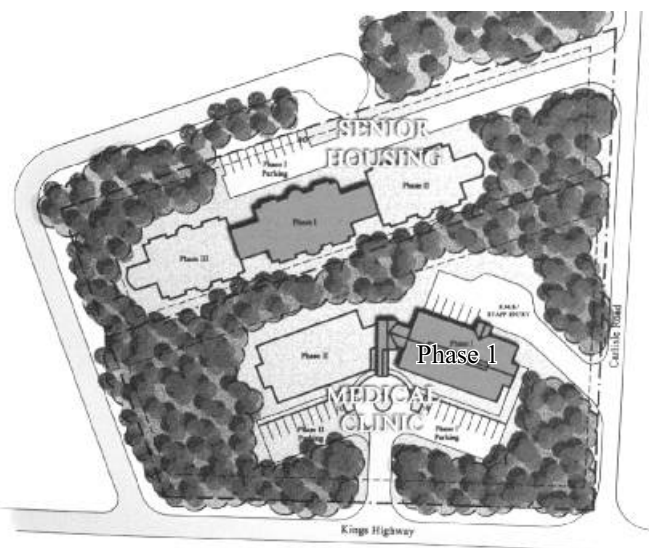
40 ACRE PARCEL

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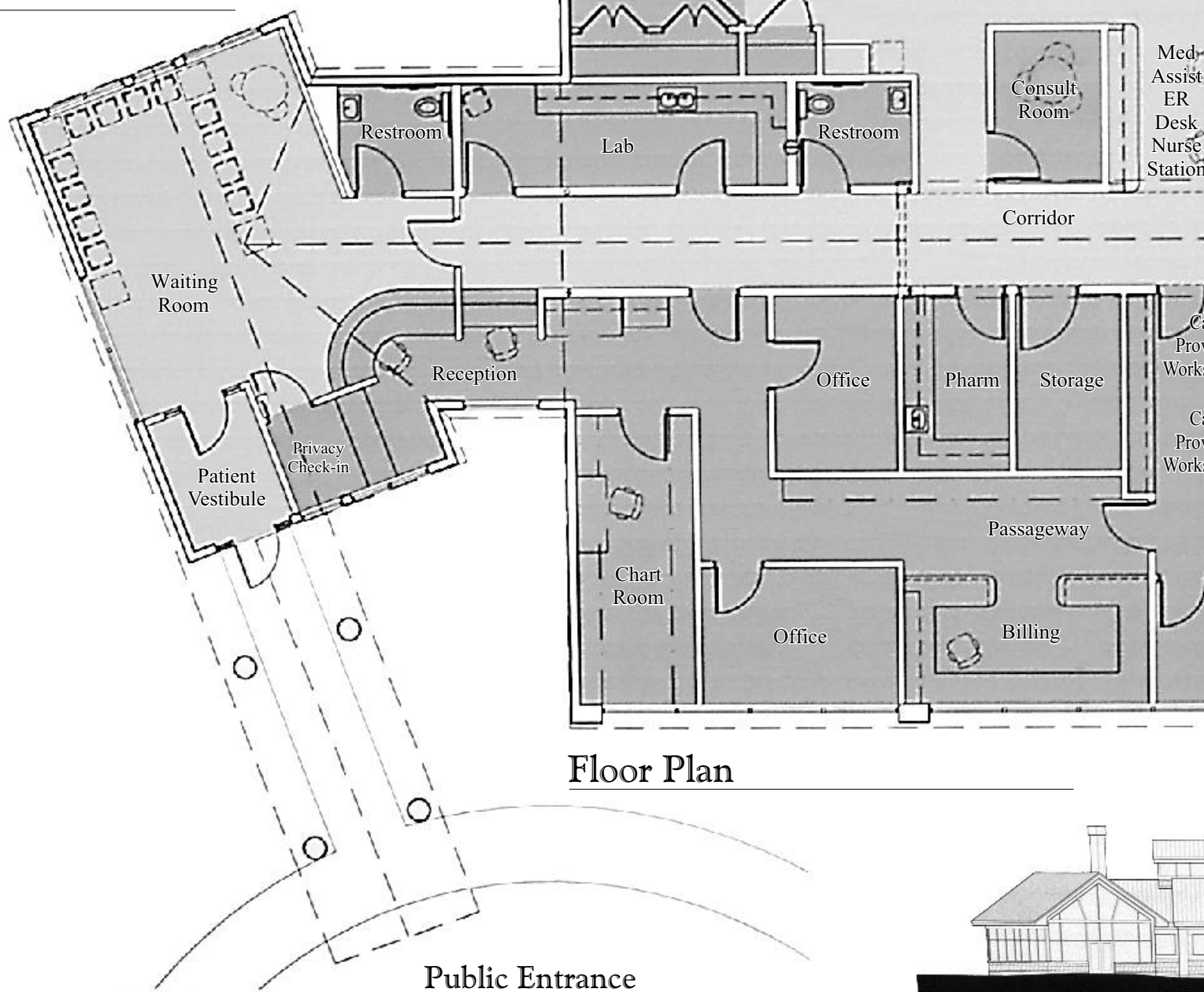
40 acre parcel in the middle of Section 22 on the east side of the extension of King's Highway, just one forty north of Hannigan's Road. Has a western branch of the Jordan River running through it near the south line of the 40 acres. Densely wooded with conifers but has a camp site opened at the peak of the ridge, near middle of property. Has Health Department approval for single a family residence. Has a huge block of State land along its western boundary, all the way from King's Highway to Fox Lake Road and from the northwest corner of this 40 acres south to Lake Geneserath. This property's location and the contiguous State land make it the absolutely perfect location for a hunting camp (Very good for deer, grouse and rabbits.) **\$90,000.**

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Site Plan

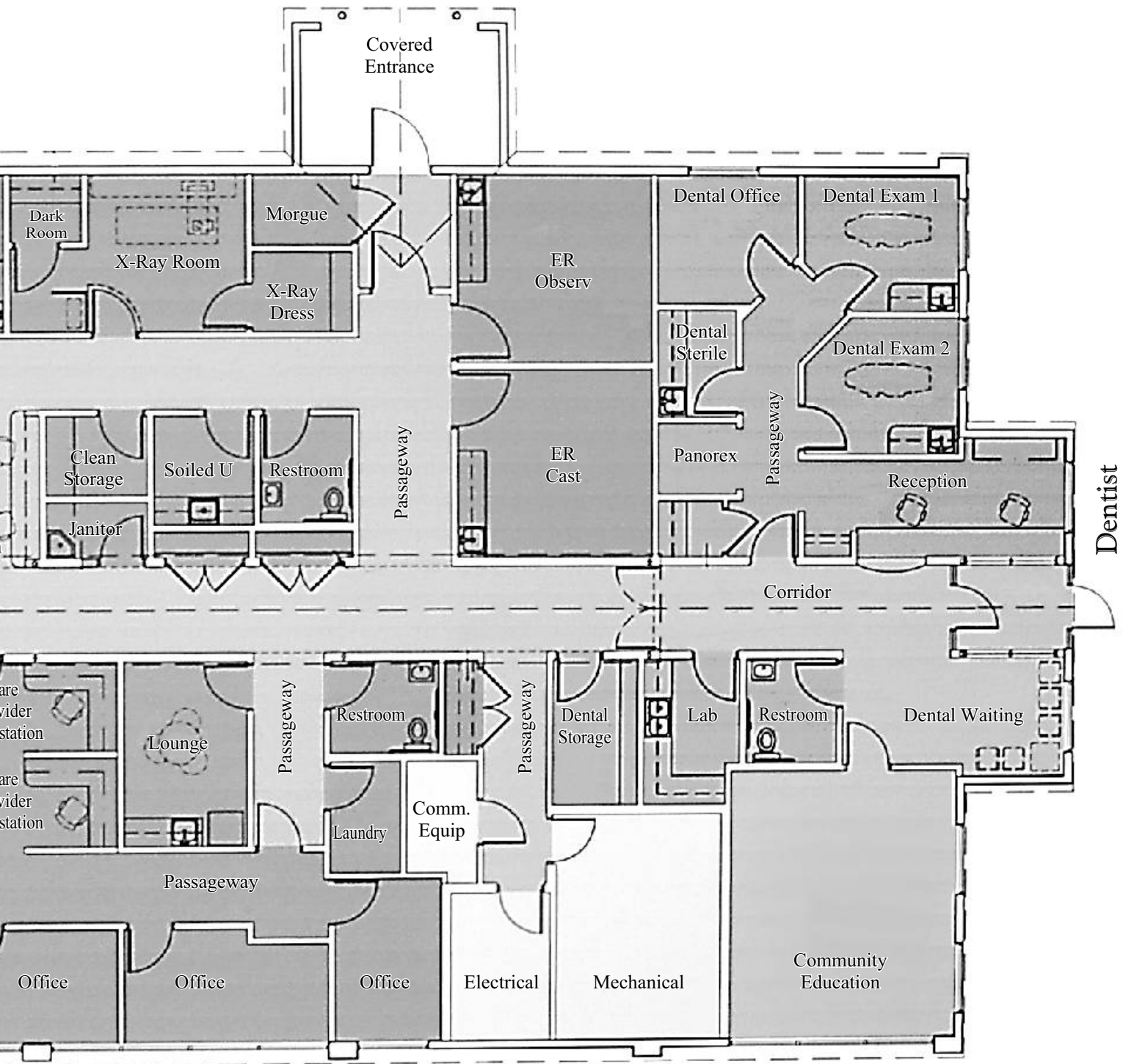


Floor Plan

Public Entrance



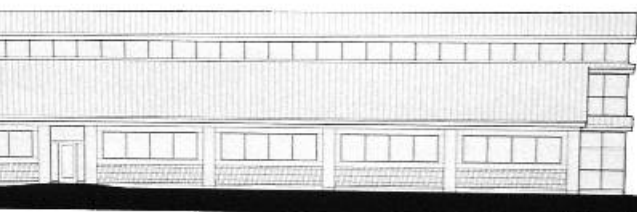
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Health Center, from page 16

said, but avenues are being pursued. Munson, for example, has promised to help, as will other hospitals.

Although this meeting was not intended to receive questions about the recent hiring of Arlene Brennan, several people were interested in this topic. It was said that her appointment was suggested by the State and mandated by the Townships, and that she has sufficient connections and expertise to bring enough bounty our way to more than justify her selection. Eula Thomas, who has 27 years of successful medical and business management expertise and has volunteered at the Medical Center for over a year now, said she had received many phone calls from Island residents concerned about this project, and wanted them to know she had offered to assume responsibility for completing many of the time-consuming requirements mandated by state and federal guidelines. She said it was an honor to have the ability to offer these services as her gift, free of charge, in an effort to eliminate unnecessary expenditures. After Arlene Brennen was rehired, she met with Don Spencer to reiterate her interest in decreasing costs by assisting during this transitional period in any way possible, and was asked if she would follow through

even though Arlene would still be paid the contracted amount (our expenditure for the consultant at this point has become \$160,000.) There was an undercurrent of hope that we can learn from this entire experience to do a better job of taking advantage of our local resources such as the way the problem of operating the X-ray machine was solved by locating Barb Kenwabakise.

The next step is to finish the plans by mid-January so it can go out on bids. Hopefully a contractor will be chosen and construction begun by mid-April, and the facility occupied in January of 2004.

Nasty Things, Murders

This exciting Arthur Lovegrove play with a surprise ending will be performed by the BICS's art and drama class on December 11th at 7:00 in the Parish Hall. In it, five ladies living in a retired gentlemen's home become upset when their TV blows up at the conclusion of a real-life murder story, prompting them to discuss it. To the horror of four of them, the 5th, the sweet and gentle Mary, seems a likely candidate to be the culprit—but, as in all of Lovegrove's plays, there's more going on than meets the eye.

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from *the Beacon*. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to All!

Santa's Coming

The Emerald Isle Hotel has once again invited Santa to come on December 14th from 12 until 2 pm. Everyone is invited to meet Santa by the fireplace in the lounge on the 2nd floor and to have their picture taken and receive a gift. The AmVet Ladies Aux. will help with refreshments in the conference room: cookies, hot chocolate and hot dogs, plus lots of Holiday good cheer and fun.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Family and Friends of Mary Minor

As many of you know, Mary has moved to the Grand Traverse Pavilions. The progression of her Alzheimer's made this necessary.

We want to say thank you to all the Angels in Mary's life who were so loving, kind, and supportive. Your efforts to do what you could to allow her to live on the Island as long as possible were wonderful and greatly appreciated. We are so grateful to God for all of you.

To send her cards or letters, the address is 1000 Pavilions Circle, Unit #618, Maple Pavilion, Traverse City MI 49684. You can email her at

New Year's Eve Party

There will be a big, big party at Holy Cross Hall on December 31st, starting at 8:00 and running until 2:00 a.m. Kids can come with a parent and stay until 10:00. The \$15 admission (\$5 for kids) will benefit the Fire Department Auxiliary. Drinks will cost \$2, but there'll be free midnight champagne and a dinner buffet. DJ music will be provided by Mike and Sharon Hurkmans, with Karaoke between 8:00 and 9:00. Door prizes will be awarded all night, and at 11:00 there'll be a raffle of a 2002 Arctic Cat snowmobile.

pavilionlovenotes@hotmail.com—indicate her name and unit number and the staff will bring it and read it for her. Unfortunately she's at the stage where she can't read or write.

Visitors are welcome. And gifts, although live plants or flowers, or anything glass, are not allowed—and Mary can only eat what's on her special diet. What she needs most are your thoughts and prayers.

Our journey with Mary is far from over. We need to look to each other for love and support—that's what family and friends do best.

—Joe & Lois LaFreniere



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Thomases join Presidential Business Commission

On October 29th Texas Congressman Tom DeLay announced that Bill and Eula Thomas have been appointed to serve as Michigan delegates on the new Business Advisory Council, with Eula named as Honorary Chairman. This elite group of leading business and professional people will provide important input, DeLay said. "You know what it's like to run a business, meet a payroll, and worry about cash flow. This Council will be the voice of common sense, which has been lacking in Washington for far too long."

The Thomases were nominated because of their success with a company Eula founded in the late 80s, the Critical Care Nursing Agency. As the Director of the critical care division for the St. Joseph Hospital in Lexington, Kentucky after receiving her BSN, Eula learned much about manage-

ment during her long shifts—typically 10 to 12 hours, but some lasting as long as 36. She made a commitment to her profession which resulted in her being called in, anytime during the day or night, by several different hospitals that knew she couldn't say no. Her inability to be in two places at once led her to enlist a few friends to be on call more often, and this soon resulted in her forming a professional staffing agency.

There were plenty of other agencies doing this—as her company expanded, they sometimes took on numerous competitors in a given city—but none had the experience or professionalism of Eula's; many were little more than glorified Kelly Girl services. Since Eula was frequently on assignment, her husband Bill was drawn into the burgeoning business. To insure its success they sold his plane and put first and second mortgages on their

cars and home.

Right from the onset they decided to do it right. Eula had always had a way with other nurses, and they gravitated towards her agency—because she paid well, offered them choices in placement, and avoided the problems frequently caused by frustration and arrogance. She had assisted many departments in obtaining the certificate of needs required for expansion; the doctors were grateful, and asked for her help whenever possible. She and Bill did their own market research, advertising, sales, testing, and training, developing procedures and guidelines based on her hands-on experience that were so well done the state auditors frequently copied them. They placed people in their specialties, be it ICU, X-ray, OR, or cath lab. Soon they were staffing entire departments. They knew how vital it was that their people performed well,

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and took their responsibility for guaranteeing this with the utmost seriousness.

They began to provide help to hospitals, doctors, and home-bound patients at every level, from nurses to directors of nursing. As time went on they added ward clerks, accountants (their up-to-the-minute records were the envy of their clients), and computer technicians, eventually spinning off a second company to staff these non-medical positions. Hospitals began to outsource through them because of their thorough attention to detail, and their employees grew from eleven to a hundred to two thousand, producing a weekly payroll in 8 states of over \$4,000,000. Since they paid their people every week but couldn't collect until 90 to 120 days had passed, they founded a bank to have access to short-term financing. During her career Eula was a long-

term Advanced Cardiac Life Support instructor, developed her hospital's first crisis intervention group, created a policy and procedure manual for each specialty that met state and federal regulations, designed manuals for fire and safety, and set up a system to constantly update the credentials of each health care worker she managed, which was so good her company was never found deficient in anything in any state during the frequent audits. When she needed letters of support from doctors in Lexington's 5 hospitals, she got 30 in one afternoon.

Her accomplishments are really far too numerous to list, but it's no surprise that she and Bill have been enlisted to help the President improve our country. We are indeed fortunate that they live on Beaver Island, and are willing to help us by sharing their expertise.

Great Lakes Aquatic Habitat Network Grant

The Beaver Island Recreation Resource Project just received a \$2500 grant for 2003 from the GLAHN to continue its work.

This is to be allocated to paying some basic expenses for the CMU staff who will help, for photography, and for GIS reproduction expenses for the "Draft and Discussion Report" that hopefully will be completed by the end of the summer.

This report will focus on the 12 state shoreline tracts. There is a good chance the Recreation Resource Project will be able to secure funding for 2004 to complete this report and begin a second phase, which will focus on the inland lakes.

—Jack Kelly



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Mel and Judy Bellamy—Swallowed into Heaven



On November 10th Mel and Judy Bellamy headed back to Beaver Island from Missouri in their Cessna 175, stopping to refuel in Fondulac Wisconsin early in the afternoon. When they failed to arrive, the Coast Guard began to search the intervening area, flying several missions over the next 48 hours. Reports of an oil slick on the lake proved erroneous, and hunters and members of the Civil Air Patrol roamed the woods along the flight path to no avail--although a plane that had gone down ten years ago was discovered in the dense brush. Not a trace of Mel and Judy were found, sending the Island into a stunned sadness.

For relatively new residents, Mel and Judy had a surprising number of good friends. They were always upbeat, friendly, and helpful. She was warm and insouciant, and a hard worker. Despite the obvious pain he was in from his scleroderma, he always was ready with a joke or clever remark. They were known for their faith, she as a regular member of Bible Study at the Christian Church, where he occasionally conducted a service or sang and played his guitar, and he as the AmVets chaplain.

They knew each other in high school. He grew up in a small stone house on a dairy farm in Newaygo. After graduating, he went to work for a lumber company, where he was challenged by the owner's hulking nephew. His response set the pattern for the independence he demonstrated for the rest of his life: a quiet request to settle it behind the barn after work, after which the bully never bothered him again. Mel became known as someone who wouldn't take any crap.

Shortly thereafter he entered the Marines, and fought in Viet Nam. In

his first battle, his troop was moving up a hill when his buddy, walking at his side, was shot in the head. Mel turned as his friend fell, which saved his life: a bullet that had been fired towards the center of his forehead hit him at an angle, taking out a chunk of his eyebrow and sending a gusher of blood down his face. As he was recovering he was told he would receive the purple heart once the medic wrote up his injury, but before he could, the medic was blown up by an incoming shell. The paperwork went up in smoke; Mel didn't get his medal for 30 years, but this didn't bother him. Patched up, he went back to the trenches and served out his term.

Returning to southern Michigan, he and Judy married and started a family, producing Missey, Mike, and Jennifer. He worked in a sawmill, as a heavy equipment operator, and then as a truck driver. He always had an airplane; he and Judy loved to fly. The Marines had a need for his charisma and experience, and he was recruited to help prepare the men.

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Mel Bellamy's Testimony

life, he was visited by scleroderma, a rare chronic autoimmune disease (one of the rheumatic disorders) that affects 300,000 Americans. Called the "stone disease," it hardened his muscles and sent spasms of pain through his body, forcing him to use a cane. He was on full disability, but on good days he and Judy worked to expand and enhance the small home they had converted from a garage at Cable's Bay. She also ran a low-key but highly sought-after cleaning service from their home, was the AmVets Auxiliary Treasurer, and was never seen without a broad smile.

He was an avid outdoorsman who intended to go deer hunting with his brother once again this year. He and Judy were anxious to make it back in time for the Marines' Banquet on Sunday night; Mel was supposed to speak at the flag-raising ceremony held the following day, Veterans' Day. When the Coast Guard could not find a trace of their plane and finally gave up the search, the prevailing blanket of sadness made it seem like the entire Island was crying. We have lost a part of us, two good human beings.

This was presented a few weeks before the flight.

I always enjoy hearing one's testimony of how their life has changed after asking the Lord to enter his or her life. As for my testimony of faith in Christ Jesus, I suspect I was rather disappointing for my Lord for several years. I asked Jesus Christ into my life in the Winter of 1966 while working at a sawmill in Michigan. I had not been to prison, didn't do drugs, and hadn't killed anyone in a bar fight. I didn't have a church background nor was I raised in a Christian home, but I was afraid of dying in Viet Nam, where I was sure I was going. After signing up for the Marine Corps I went to 'religious classes' where I learned about the Trinity of God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Soon I was with a grunt unit that traveled the whole I Corps area and participated in over 14 operations. I was wounded in the first firefight and came close to death so many times that it became second nature to have a good adrenaline rush. During one



battle, while under intense mortar attack, I prayed to the Lord to take me early in the night. I saw no point in laying in my hole up to my neck in water with leeches and bugs crawling all over me, only to die at sunrise. The ground fire was meant for one thing only: to keep me in my hole until a mortar found me. At this time the Lord spoke to me very clearly that nothing was going to take me out of His hand. He said I wasn't going to die but was safe in His hand because I had asked His Son, Jesus Christ, into my life. I didn't even know that it was recorded in His Word until I read it in John 10:28 after coming home the following year.



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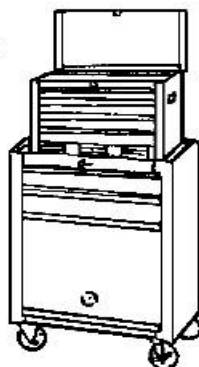
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Mel Bellamy's Testimony *continued from page 25*

After being 'in country' for 7 more months, we participated in operation Union 2. This battle changed the way I think, the way I look at others, and the way I perceive others under authority. We went in with 150 men, plus support guns and mortars, and came out with 27. After this operation I started having big trouble with our 1st Sgt. It got to the point where he'd send me out on missions not expecting me to come back. He also had me turn in all my grenades so I couldn't frag him. This was the time of blind obedience, and I started to question this system. I had tried to extend in country but after my 14th month I was shipped home abruptly the morning after three of us were sent out on ambush. Three of us went into a flooded village of NVA and were on air mattresses with not much more than knives and grenades.

After Union 2 I started smoking weed and drinking anything that would dull the memory. One Marine would wake me to go on watch, but I ended up carrying his body out of the field on May 26th. Dead! This marine would

follow me back to the States and appear periodically in full jungle attire, smell and all.

Upon reaching the States, I tried to kill my Plt Sgt. with a bow and arrow after a night at the club. I would have succeeded if I hadn't run out of arrows. While in and out of the hospital I was discharged (Honorable), and soon married and settled into the routine life of going to church for the first time and trying to be 'good.' We attended or joined several churches, about 7 or 8, to my recollection. The majority of these churches contended that by living a good life, we would lead others to Christ. I failed miserably at the good life or leading others to Christ. Only through Christ was I able to lose my nightmares of Nam and chemical dependency.

My brother was dying of cancer in 1994, and at this point a change finally came into my life. My brother Gene, who was a Christian, looked at me and said "my work on earth is done; apparently the Lord wants you to do something yet for Him!"

Soon after this, my wife and I volunteered as missionaries to the

military at Fort Leonard Wood. At the first Retreat with the Army I learned through Christ how to lead someone to Him. Not by being good, but by telling that individual about how Jesus died for him or her. After working with the Army for three years we were able to invite the Marine Corps out for weekly retreats, where many accepted the Lord. The Lord opened many doors at this time and gave us a heart for the military to share our experiences, and what the Lord can do.

It took over 30 years of being a Christian to figure out, as Paul said in I Cor. 16:13, to start acting like a man and stand up for Jesus Christ.

Keep Looking Up
Mel Bellamy

This testament came from Sue Haney, who adds: If anyone wants to learn about the same Jesus Christ that changed Mel and Judy's life so dramatically, or if you just want to share your faith with others, you are welcome to join our group. We meet each Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. Contact me at 448-2927 or Bob Hoogendorn at 448-2142.

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On This Date

Ten Years Ago

The December *Beacon's* cover story was about the school addition. The architect held an open meeting, primarily for Island contractors and tradesmen. The state required the General Contractor to be bonded, which in turn required a company's net worth to exceed the amount of its bid. Thus almost all of the Island contractors would be ruled out, although it was hoped an off-Island General would sub out much of the work to locals. To facilitate this, wording was inserted in the request for bids to indicate that weight will be given to those Generals listing several locals in their list of subs. Joddy Croswhite was hired to act as Project Supervisor.

The St. James Town Board requested Supervisor Neal Boyle to ask the DNR to limit the number of deer taken on the Island until the herd is built up. Bud Rouch won the big buck contest with a 205-pound eight-pointer. All in all, about 55 deer were taken during the combined seasons.

Word was received of the passing of long-time Island summer resident Gerry Keidel. Gerry first arrived in

1961; falling in love with Beaver, he bought lots at Sand Bay and Lake Geneserath. First he built a rustic sportsman's cabin on the Little Lake; then, in 1973, three years before he retired as the head of the International Division of Chicago's American National Bank (he opened their London branch in 1969), he added a cabin at Sand Bay. Known as "The Mayor," he was always ready to open his door to anyone and sit down to talk. He is still missed to this day.

Two Kalamazoo couples, the Tom Lammon, Ray Sears, and their wives, were declared legally dead five months after their Cessna 172 disappeared from radar after passing Northport on its way to Beaver Island. A few fiberglass shards that washed up near Good Hart could not be positively identified.

Archie LaFreniere celebrated his 80th birthday. His grandfather had been a logger who worked his way north late in the nineteenth century as the big pine disappeared, finally crossing the ice on foot and settling on Beaver. Archie was in the Coast Guard in its last days, and then bought the

Village Inn, moved it across the street, and renamed it the *Shamrock*, which he owned and ran for 35 years. After selling it, he opened the Island's first gift shop, where he sold small paintings he did on stones he picked up on the beach.

Twenty Years Ago

In December of 1982 the Island went dark when a tug dragging a line severely damaged the cable connecting us to Cross Village. Power would have to be supplied by the generator until repairs could be made in the spring--its constant chugging became a feature of St. James--so Island residents were asked to reduce their power use during peak times and relinquish, wherever possible, electric heat. A back-up generator was located and delivered to the Island.

The Volunteer Fire Department was organized, with Tim McDonough and Jim Wojan accepting the top posts.

BJ Wyckoff spent two intense days teaching basic CPR to 80 residents.

The Island got its first bank when the First State Bank of Charlevoix opened a branch in the building now housing the Tanning Salon.

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Happy Holidays to All

The Game Club announced that 56 bucks were taken on Beaver and 14 on Garden.

Richard Hodgson and Paul Welke announced the merging of their flying services to form Island Airways.

Thirty Years Ago

The Game Club reported a comparable harvest to the preceding year: 25-30 deer taken on Beaver, 3 on Garden. Several coyotes were shot, most suffering from the mange. Snowshoe hares and partridge were hunted as well.

Archie's daughter Judy married Rick Hansul. Audrey (Wojan) Potter delivered her son Jason, and Buddy and Coleen welcomed Katrina into their family. New winter residents included Vivian Visscher, Phyllis Townsend, Martha and George Miller, Shirley and Dave Gladish, and Annie and Tink Hayhoe.

A meeting was held at the School in which both townships' Boards introduced various mainland agency representatives to interested Islanders to tell them about their options for receiving technical and financial assistance. Included was the County

Executive Director of the United States Agriculture Stabilization Conservation Service, Pete LoDico.

Thanks giving dinner at the Christian Church was attended by 36 people.

Forty Years Ago

The December *Beacon*, which was edited by Sheldon Parker because Phil Gregg was at outboard motor school, relayed a hunting story that demonstrates Beaver Islanders' ability to improvise: "While Timmy McDonough, age 5, and Jimmy Wojan, age 8, were playing in the back yard of Skip and Bud McDonough's home, their beagle pup, Butch, chased a rabbit past them. Tim and Jim took off in hot pursuit, armed with a mop handle and a pocket knife. Leaving a wake of dust and swirling leaves, they gained enough on their quarry to warrant a hefty swing on the mop handle, which found its target. The knife, thrown by Tim, brought the chase to an end, and two proud hunters came strutting home with meat for the table."

Another hunter was not so lucky. As 16-year-old Bob Tricker Jr. from Pontiac changed his rifle from one

hand to the other it went off, imbedding small particles from the blast in his cheek and eye as the bullet passed through the visor of his cap. He was treated by Dr. Haynes and then flown to Munson by the Coast Guard helicopter.

The deer season produced 260 hunters, who took 120 deer: 62 antlered bucks, 31 adult does, 12 female fawns, and 15 male fawns. Two high school students bagged their first buck: Johnny Gillespie and Danny Gallagher. One hunter, Floyd Fasset from Charlotte got lost trying to hike from the mouth of Iron Ore Creek to Nomad, where he'd arranged to be picked up. By dusk he'd reached the southwest edge of Lake Geneserath, but was mired in a wetland. He waded along the shore until he reached high ground, and then built a fire and prepared to spend the night. Keeping it going kept him from sleeping. At dawn he set off again to the north, and found an old logging trail that carried him to a half mile west of Wicklow Beach. Just past noon he was spotted by a member of the search party—Phil Gregg, who drove him to town and treated him to a hearty breakfast.



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Beaver Island Volunteer Fire Department gets a "new" Tanker Truck



The Beaver Island Volunteer Fire Department recently acquired this '79 Ford 3,500 gallon diesel tanker from Saugatuck. It will replace the '66 Army 6x6 1,800-gallon tanker at the Fire Station, which needs work. The Island Fire Department's fifteen volunteers now have 5 trucks, a 2001 International Pumper being their prize. Another truck that was sold off the Island over ten years ago after more than twenty years here has been restored by some Fire Engine buffs in Plainwell, who let us know that for the right price it could rejoin the fleet.



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One Hundred Years Ago

Charlevoix Sentinel Dec. 4, 1902

Local News: "After a trip which took them to Chicago, Milwaukee, and Traverse Bay points, Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Gill returned here Tuesday, and went to Beaver Island for a two weeks stay."

Charlevoix Sentinel Dec. 11, 1902

Marine News: "The steamer *Beaver*, which went to Beaver Island Tuesday, was stormbound there until this morning."

Charlevoix Sentinel Dec. 18, 1902

Beaver Island News: "Great preparations are being made for a proper celebration of the Christmas Holiday this year by the children under the direction and efficient management of the Sisters."

"Capt. John McCann's new house is nearly ready for occupancy. The plastering is done and the inside finish is nearly completed. The

captain and his family hope to keep Christmas in their new home."

"Rev. Father Zugelder has the inside work on the new Parish stone house about completed and will move into it by New Year's Day. Great credit is due the Father for his push and perseverance in accomplishing so much building and other improvements on the Parish property during the short time of his pastorate here."

"Mr. A. Malloy of the Island meat market made a trip to the mainland to make purchases for his market, which he will continue to run through the winter in the same businesslike and altogether satisfactory manner for which Mr. Malloy is famous. Beaver Island is certainly fortunate in having so good and experienced a meat cutter."

"Some idea of the amount of business coming to the Island this

winter in the shape of the Beaver Island Lumber Company can be realized when it is understood that over 200 men will be employed—that the present plant acquired by purchase from W. F. Gill will be greatly enlarged and improved and a new mill constructed at once for the manufacture of shingles, that a railroad is in process of construction from their plant to their timber lands, and a number of camps will be fitted up in the early spring for the cutting and skidding of the timber to the right of way and water."

Charlevoix Sentinel Dec. 25, 1902

Local News: "Jas. Gibson, of St. James returned from Ann Arbor Tuesday, and will go home by the first trip of the *Beaver*. The doctors diagnosed his case as tuberculosis of the throat, and gave him very little encouragement."

—Joyce Bartels

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Weather or Not

November's weather was warm and dry. So dry you could hear deer moving on Garden Island from inside the Lodge. There were flurries in the air upon occasion, but no real accumulation. Until Thanksgiving, when the white stuff finally arrived and decided to stay.

December promises a white Christmas but don't expect to drive your snow machine from party to party. There could actually be a couple of thaws prior to the holiday. Temperatures should remain slightly above average for this time of year, although the wind may at times drive it down. Look forward to one or two strong gales, real tree benders, not so much blizzards but just Old Man Winter flexing his muscles and getting ready for January. So, stack the wood while you can and whatever holidays you're celebrating, make 'em Rock!

— Liam Racine

Goodbye, Alfred Gates

Alfred H. Gates, age 87 of Ann Arbor, and also of Beaver Island, died November 19, 2002 at Superior Woods Nursing Home in Superior Township, Michigan. Visitation and memorial service was held on Sunday November 24 in Plymouth.

Mr. Gates leaves his wife, Helen M. Gates, and his children Peggy (Thomas) Goodart, Thomas (Vickie), Sue (Ted) Rutledge-Hehl and Larry (Molly.) He also leaves five grandchildren: Jenna, Ken, Casey, Kelly, and Joe.

Mr. Gates graduated from Plymouth High School in 1934. He served as a paratrooper in the Army's 101st Airborne Division during World War II. He was an avid fisherman and golfer. His hobbies also include woodworking, in which he spent many hours in his shop during retirement making projects for family and friends. He spent the majority of his career as owner and operator of his auto service station, Hickory Hill Gulf in Ypsilanti. He also owned a cottage on Beaver Island, where he and his family enjoyed vacations together for 30 years.

Memorial contributions may be made to Superior Woods Health Care Center, Sub-Acute Unit, 8380 Geddes, Ypsilanti, Michigan 48198; or to the Beaver Island Historical Society, P.O. Box 263, Beaver Island, Michigan 49782

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The Partnership Project takes a step forward

At a November 12th meeting of the Beaver Island Partnership Project, interim co-chairman Jim Haveman announced that he had written a letter of support for a \$248,000 grant requested by the BICS for technological/Internet training and equipment. There was a brief discussion of what to support, and why some organizations had not come on board—particularly the two Township Boards.

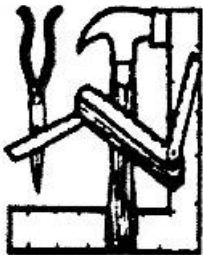
The twenty people present broke into committees to discuss three issues that had been identified at the previous meeting, with the hope of narrowing in on some goals that might be accomplished in 2003. After thirty minutes, each committee presented their results.

The Eco-friendly Economic Development/Technology Committee listed five specific opportunities: 1) approach the director of the MSU Cooperative Extension Services to see what kind of resources it might be able to offer; 2) approach the director of the West Michigan Tourist Association to see what hot-spots of eco-tourism she considers appropriate for Beaver Island; 3) sponsor classes to teach the art of designing and using web sites to enhance Island business; 4) develop a means of investigating, identifying, and communicating general and technological opportunities being underused; and 5) institute a "welcome wagon" for new businesses to acquaint their owners with available resources and brief them on Beaver Island's unique problems and some successful and unsuccessful attempts at solving them.

The Environmental Access Committee wanted to protect and improve access to public land and water. They thought they should study all the previous land use plans, starting with Dave Gladish's of 27 years ago. They suggested preparing a "fact book" on Beaver Island that would present details on accessing public land—and much more information about our expanding infrastructure.

The Public Health and Safety Committee wanted to study moving the sheriff's substation to the old Medical Center building, where there could be room for additional county offices. They felt the time has come for a second full-time deputy, and recommended more classes on water safety (the Youth Consortium did this, and it was their most popular activity.) They supported an increased presence by the State Police. They thought the DNR role should be expanded, and a deer program created. They thought it would be important to work closely with the EMT and the Fire Department.

The next meeting is January 21st at noon at the Peaine Hall.



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Calendar of Events

- Dec. 7-8 Christmas Cantata, Christian Church, 3 pm
- Dec. 9 School Board Meeting, BICS, 7:30 pm
- Dec. 10 BITA Meeting, Noon
- Dec. 11 Peaine Twp. Board, 7 pm
- Dec. 11 School Play, Hall, 7 pm
- Dec. 12 Cookie Carnival, Christian Church
- Dec. 14 Children's Christmas Party, Emerald Isle Hotel, Noon to 2:00 pm
- Dec. 17 BIRHC, Library, 7 pm
- Dec. 18 EMS Meeting, school, 7 pm
- Dec. 18 School Holiday Prog. 7 pm

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