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Beaver Beacon

The Island Monthly Since 1955



some stories in this issue:

Suttons Bay Anthropology Club Digs Out History on Beaver Island; The Chippewa - an Island Treasure On this Date; Annual Peace Retreat; 100 Years Ago; Work at the Lighthouse; BIRHC Updates and Letters Wildlife Club Contest; Beaver Island News, Events, Photography, History, People, Art, and lots more...



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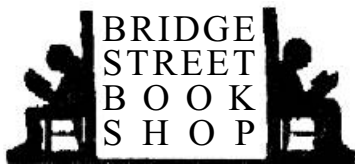
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The Recreation Resource Project

Jack Kelly recently released a draft of the "Beaver Island Recreation Resource Project" (which was initiated in conjunction with BIPOA) in the form of a large and attractive 36-page color booklet. With help from Erin McDonough, Jim Gillingham, and Ed and Beth Leuck he has compiled maps, ground and aerial color pictures, and analyses of eleven tracts of State shoreline on Beaver Island, 72 copies of which were published by means of a grant from the Great Lakes Aquatic Network.

The sites are addressed counter-clockwise, starting at McCauley's Point and continuing around the south end and up to Luney's Point.

Each analysis is divided into short- and long-term suggestions for use, protection, and monitoring. Environmental sensitivity is factored in, so that recommendations for some sites are that their use should be postponed or discouraged (McCauley's Point, Oliver's Point, and McFadden's Point). In others (Bonner's Landing, Cheyenne Point), picnic tables, camp sites, and systems of hiking trails are

recommended. Some sites at which increased use is called for should be monitored as they are developed in stages to make sure the use has no negative consequence.

There is also a section of maps of Beaver Island as well, which together describe many aspects of our endowment. One map shows existing trails, so we can see how proposed new trails would tie in, expanding the Island's hiking network. Reading the site recommendations allows one to envision how recreation options might be increased as population increases and the results of monitoring are analyzed; the report contains an implicit blueprint for smart growth.

The report calls for input, which is to be followed by a public meeting later this year. Reading this document lets one imagine how we might become a place in which hiking, camping, and observing nature are encouraged while the environment – the land and the plants and animals living on it – is given necessary protection. It's only a first step, but it takes us a long way.

Another Auction

After the smoke from the first frantic bidding for the Circle M / Old Rectory cleared the air, the attorneys decided it had not been proper so a second auction was arranged for the Courthouse steps in Charlevoix on September 5th. Unfortunately no one

thought to tell the potential bidders, and no one showed up. Consequently Bob McGlocklin has been declared the sole owner—once again. The past owners have a grace period to settle up if they want to get the property back—which would make Bob happy.

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Our New Health Care Provider

The BIRHC Board is very pleased to announce the hiring of Sue Solle, Family Nurse Practitioner, as a new practitioner to work with Chris VanLooy, PA-C. Sue was one of six applicants (15 inquiries) and is highly qualified, bringing years of experience and skills to complement and strengthen BIRHC's current health care services.

Sue and her husband Frank will be moving to the Island around the first of October from Ewen, Michigan, in the

Upper Peninsula, where Sue has been the solo nurse practitioner at a small rural health center for the past seven years. Both Sue and Frank have spent many years on the Island previously, and are looking forward to joining the community on a permanent basis. Sue is the daughter of Matt and Ellie Hohn. Frank is the son of Rhea Christie and stepson of former Island doctor, Joseph Christie. The board will host a reception to welcome Sue after she and Frank are settled.

School Board Vacancy

At its October 13th meeting the Board of the Beaver Island Community School will appoint one trustee to fill the vacancy of Joddy Crosswhite until the June 2004 regular election, at which time the appointed person may choose to run for election to the board.

Interested candidates should sub-

mit a letter to John Fiegen, Board President: Beaver Island Community School, 37895 King's Highway, Beaver Island MI 49782 by Friday, October 10th. Or contact principal/superintendent Kathleen McNamara. The board will interview candidates at its October 13th meeting, and a replacement will be named.

A Hundredth Birthday Party

In early August Margot Bley celebrated her 100th birthday at her cottage on Donegal Bay. She first set eyes on Beaver Island as the result of an American Central promotion in 1967, which led her and her husband to purchase a lot in the Port of St. James.

She had lived in Lansing since coming from Germany in 1928. She met her husband Alfred, a tool-and-die maker at the Oldsmobile plant, shortly after her arrival. In 1987 the Bleys left

Lansing for Chicago to be near their daughter Gertraud, with whom Margot has been living since Alfred's death in 1992 at age 90.

Carolyn Works catered the party, which several long-time friends attended: Annie Steinbach, Mary Rudell, Jean Gullahorn, Betty VanAntwerp, and John and Trudy Works. Everyone enjoyed reminiscing about good times had in past years, particularly the Birthday Girl.

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Letters to the Editor:

Concerning the BIRHC Consultant

At a recent meeting two BIRHC board members conceded that Arlene Brennan *has not* brought to Beaver Island any grant money during the first half of her contract. I then decided to calculate what it is costing islanders daily for her services, based on a \$160,000 contract/fees for 78 weeks (18 months). Using the three days a week (Tuesday Thursday) that she spends on Beaver Island, I calculated her daily rate to be **\$683.76**. She has transportation costs and meals out, but the Medical Center does provide her a condo.

One wonders what singular duties she performs to merit such *excessive wages*. I have read the BIRHC 15 Operational Objectives for 2003 with the targeted completion dates which Arlene presented to the board at the last public meeting. She does accounting although there is already a full time bookkeeper on staff and one other who helps on a part time basis for very little compensation. Arlene also writes up the minutes for the board meetings although any secretary is capable of doing this. One of her duties is to write up and apply for grants which so far

have not generated any results or money. Apparently, she is recovering money from the accounts receivable, setting up policies and procedures, and implementing an updated computer program (Medisoft) for current billing.

There are not many of us who reside here on Beaver Island with that kind of daily income. My concern is that a majority of the BIRHC board members approved *large expenditures* for a consultant to do work which could have been provided by an independent service. An independent service could have updated the Medisoft system, straightened out accounts receivable, and worked with the current staff for *less cost*. (Employing an independent service was suggested by a resident at an earlier meeting prior to the employment of Arlene, but the suggestion was ignored.) My understanding is that Arlene's contract can be terminated at any time. If it is done now, halfway through her contract, the medical center could save at least \$60,000. **In the end, it will be the Beaver Island taxpayers who will be left paying the costs.**

—Kenneth Jay Taylor



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Letters to the Editor:

Response to Ken Taylor's letter:

Facts regarding Mr. Taylor's letter

1) The amount of compensation he stated is wrong; it is 33% too high. The Transition Manager's 18 month contract is for \$120,000 (\$80,000/year). The general public has copies of the agreement, and this is very clear. Mr. Taylor is also inaccurate in his description of hours and days worked. While the Transition Manager is not on the Island every day, she works many hours on BIRHC business while off Island. Furthermore, her workday while on the Island averages 13 hours, which includes evenings, some Mondays, and some Fridays.

2) The cost of paying for the Transition Manager comes from the grant from the state for the new facility, and private grants, *not* from property tax monies received through the townships.

3) In order to obtain any grants, an organization must demonstrate that it is being well run and has good business practices. An example of being "well run" would be that the maximum possible payments for services are consistently collected, something that has not occurred at BIRHC previously. During the winter of 2002, BIRHC had to write off approximately \$40,000 in charges. Because of significant efforts on cleaning up business operations, including claims and invoicing, the write-off so far this fiscal year (11 months) is less than \$10,000. This could be a savings of \$30,000 in potential write-offs the equivalent of a \$30,000 grant for which an application did not have to be written. There must be "clean up" before the health center can apply for operations grants.

4) BIRHC interviewed 3 agencies to do billing. They all would be happy for the new business and "clean" claims. NONE would take the task of cleaning up existing problems. They said BIRHC

should do it. The problem is not the new claims for recent services; it's the old claims.

5) BIRHC must continue its clean up effort on all patient accounts, claims, and invoicing for 2 very important reasons. First, if Medicaid and Medicare are not billed accurately for all services provided, they do not have a complete picture at the end of the year to calculate the average payment for services that BIRHC is eligible to receive because it is a rural health center. This is *very* important. It could mean money lost. Secondly, if clean up is not done, it is not possible to accurately bill patients for balances they owe. This also means money lost.

Mr. Taylor states at the end of his letter, "In the end, it will be the Beaver Island taxpayers who will be left paying the costs." IF someone does not take responsibility for overall claims and payment activities, and ensure they are done properly, it *will* be the Beaver Island taxpayers who will pay the cost. IF complete, accurate claims are not submitted to Medicare and Medicaid, and BIRHC gets less than the accurate service payment due to a rural health center, it *will* be the Beaver Island taxpayers who will pay the cost. IF patients who owe money to the health center for services provided are not billed accurately or at all, it *will* be the Beaver Island taxpayers who will pay the cost.

The BIRHC Board of Directors made a decision to hire a Transition Manager. It is time the public evaluated the appropriateness of that manager's compensation by comparing it to the cost to the health center over the years of inefficient, unsupervised operations and the resulting large and repeated write-offs. The costs of *not having* a manager are far higher than the costs of having one.

—Connie Wojan, for the Board



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This Year's "Peaceful Communities' Beaver Island Retreat"

"Each friend represents a world in us, a world possibly not born until they arrive, and it is only by this meeting that a new world is born."—Anais Nin

How can we go about nurturing Peaceful Communities in these troubled times? That was the theme of this year's retreat—our 7th annual Labor Day weekend of education and fun—down at the old Antrim Iron Works/Carpenter's Mill site off the West Side Road. As Islanders well know, the old meadow mill site is no stranger to communities. What a natural choice then to host 30 new campers this year in the soft grass where the old bunkhouse foundations can still be found.

Campers often get to witness sand hill cranes, deer, monarch butterflies, praying mantis, and full moonlight with owls hooting simply by agreeing to pitch their tents in this primitive but comfortable camp. Music is always present around the campfire, this year featuring acoustic guitar and song, drumming, and live concert violin in the moonlight. Evening meals are catered and delicious, with Greek and East Indian cuisine on the menu this Labor Day. Workshop hosts

were Jim Norgaard of Petoskey, Danny and Carol Burton of Beaver Island, Sally Wagoner of Chicago, Deb Willens of West Bloomfield, and Loren Stewart from Findhorn Scotland.

These drug- and alcohol-free retreats were begun in 1997 with the intent of bringing people closer to the land and to each other to explore a host of timely topics and have fun. This year's retreat was the largest ever and reached its maximum enrollment at 30 folks.



Below is a moving personal account from one of this year's participants:

"A crescent moon surrounded by dull gray clouds acted as a beacon for me as I headed south towards home, following this year's "Peaceful Communities" retreat on Beaver Island. The lingering presence of the Great Lake tickled my skin and brought a smile to my spirit. My mind is still dancing with a plethora of thoughts—like a host of fish darting by a coral reef on a summer's day. And my being feels as light as a dolphin in flight above the wave. There is the memory always of Andy Bruck's violin: played for us veterans of the retreat and others on the upper deck of the *Emerald Isle* during our return passage home. And there's the laughter of all the new friends who gathered for this 7th annual Labor Day weekend on the Island. These sounds lingered with me as music in my ears during my return drive home.

"I felt like jumping and playing in the lake that weekend because for 48

hours I had lost the feeling of being judged. I had forgotten feelings that I was 'fat' and 'ugly.' I lost the shame and guilt that accompanies those feelings. I stood on the beach in a bathing suit with the others, having no conscious thought to cover my self. I felt free. How do I say 'Thank You' for such an experience?

"The hugs I received this weekend from all the men were full of acceptance. I resisted them at first, because I expected the hugs to be offered with pity. I resisted because I am a strong and independent woman, and would rather stand alone forever than have to live on my knees. Yet, surrounded by the white birch and the lullaby of the Island wind, I stopped resisting. I could not feel anything but acceptance in each hug. I was humbled by it. When I started to question this acceptance with thoughts of 'are they really being nice to me?' and 'are you certain you accept me?' one of the retreat leaders seemed to sense this and moved to embrace me with acceptance again. Perhaps it was the Island wind that whispered to you or perhaps my aura changed, I do not presume to know how you knew. The hugs I received from the women too were warm and supportive, reminding me also that I have nothing to apologize for. I was honored. I feel a little lost in this world today. But after my wonderful discoveries on the Island, I presume my search is just beginning. Thank You."

—Dawn Renee from Indiana

Truly Blessed

God has given Beaver Island its natural beauty, which all of us enjoy every day. He has also given us extraordinary spiritual leadership by sending us Father Pat Cawley, Pastor Howard Davis, and Father Joe Howell to inspire us and help us recognize the many blessings we have. That these three men have come to us simultaneously is remarkable, and, we believe, worthy of special appreciation.

—Joe and Marilyn Reed



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A Doughty Little Boat

For years, visitors to Beaver Island have witnessed the weekly cruises Bill Hirshey and his family and friends have taken to the warm waters of Little Sand Bay and other scenic places of repose on his lobster-looking boat, the *Chippewa*. Those who have been coming longer remember Henry Jennings buying this gritty boat from CMU, which had used it for its fisheries research. A very few can cite how the DNR acquired it from the Coast Guard, its original owner, or how it served them as a crib tender. But no matter how little or much someone knows about its colorful history, they are sure to notice it when their eyes play over the harbor.

We had the chance to go on one of these expeditions in early September with Bill and his substitute captain, Barry Pischner, who admitted having written several of his ballads while in a similar situation. "When I'm out on the lake, bobbing through the waves, words and music just pop into my head," he admitted. No surprise there.

Up close it is a surprise how shipshape the green-and-yellow craft is: everything is polished and clean, and in top repair. This 26' boat, with an 8' beam and a 3' draft, was built tough but treated

roughly. The DNR was known for plowing her nose onto the gravel shore when using her to transport their trail-clearers to Garden or High, and when she tended lights she was frequently grabbed by her lifting eyes and yanked out of the lake. Yet year after year she took a pounding but refused to break.



There have been few changes from how she looked when the wrapping paper was torn off when she came, in 1936, from the shipyard that turned her out with hundreds of twin sisters. The life-raft rack was removed from the top of her small cabin; she was rewired by Vince Pickhardt, and given electronic instruments; and the top of the surrounding plat-

form has been protected with fiberglass. Phil Gregg carved a polished and hinged swim ladder from a single piece of oak a few years back, and the toilet, which flushed into the lake, was removed when regulations were upgraded. But her cedar frame, her caravel plank hull, and her 40 hp 4-cylinder Gray engine are just as they were on her first day of service.

She looks quaint and cute, but is eminently seaworthy. With her rounded bottom she can roll when broadside to the sea, but if she's kept squared up to its force she will slice along at a modest 8 knots until she runs out of gas. She seems old-fashioned, hearkening back to a time of high craftsmanship and unique solutions to life's constant challenges. This is the essence of her appeal: no matter how pressed we are by today's problems, she reminds us that there was a time when people were more stalwart about solving them.

We reached Little Sand Bay, threw in the anchor, and sat in the quiet warmth of the sun discussing the condition of the world for as long as it took to drink two beers. It seemed that for the moment we had all the answers. When we headed back we were saluted by a gamboling eagle high above the harbor's mouth.

On This Date

Ten Years Ago This September/October *Beacon* contained a 25-year-old reprint of one of Phil Gregg's stories under the title, *Beaver Tales*. "When the ice began to form out from the Island in January of '68," Phil began, "Archie LaFreniere started a campaign amongst the snowmobile owners, encouraging them to think about crossing the ice to Cross Village." He cornered each of them and recounted a tale about the mail carriers crossing with horse-drawn sleighs—no men were ever lost, he added, although the horses weren't so lucky.

Finally on February 20th a party assembled: Perry Crawford with a snow machine and sleigh, Walt Wojan with his machine and covered toboggan, and Archie and his sleigh. Phil and Alvin LaFreniere signed on as passengers. They knew the Coast Guard cutter *Mackinaw* had crossed their path the night before, but the weather was very very cold so none of them were worried. The sky was blue and the sun shining; what more could anyone want?

They left the back beach at noon and reached Garden Island in a few minutes. Skirting Northcut Bay, they headed for Hog. The ice was just rough enough that Walt's toboggan was being shaken to pieces, so they decided to leave what was left of it on Hog Island and retrieve it on the way back.

When they reached Hat Island the five adventurers stopped for a coffee

break. The wind had picked up and was so biting that the coffee's steam froze in the air and fell down as ice. In their hearts they each hoped someone else would suggest turning back, but no one did so they pushed on again, looping north to avoid the open water south of Gray's Reef.

They set a course for White Shoals, although the thrown-up blocks of ice made the going slow and rough. Phil was frequently thrown off his box seat and had to run after Perry Crawford to avoid getting left behind, but at least the activity brought some feeling back to his petrified feet.

Archie had the lightest load so was usually out in front. The others followed his tracks when they lost direct sight. Walt stopped every fifteen minutes for a compass check or to work around piled cakes of ice. At least the wind was blowing from behind.

Luckily they spotted White Shoals Light off to their right and changed direction. Climbing up the tower brought them above the swirling snow, and they could see bits and pieces of the mainland. So they set off again for Waugoshance Point.

They came to the swath made by the cutter, 50' of ice cakes frozen solidly in place. After inching across, they set off for the mainland's shore. Phil got a look at Alvin when the snowmobiles drew even: his sunglasses were frozen to his nose, and ice coated his cheeks. To

make matters worse, the sun went down, increasing the cold.

A half mile from shore, Archie's machine quit. He tried to get it started for awhile and then got on Perry's sleigh behind Phil. Soon they were on shore and being congratulated by Roy Chambers, Ralph Hess, and Jack Erber. Ralph and Jack went out and towed Archie's machine to shore. That night they got a call from Fred Annand in Lansing: two new machines were on their way, for Bud McDonough and Russ Green—if this party would drive them across. They were glad to, because the driver and only the driver could duck behind the windshield.

They left at 9:00 in the morning, but stopped at a fresh swath made by the *Mackinaw*. Stopped, because there was water between the ice chunks. Stopped, except for Walt, who gunned his machine and made it across, kicking up froth like a duck treading water. Since Walt's was the heaviest, the others followed suit and made it too.

They took a break at Gray's Reef, and then picked up Walt's toboggan at Hog. Planes had circled them from time to time, and they expected a crowd would be waiting at Beaver so they pulled into tight formation for the entrance to the harbor. They were able to hold it as they approached the mouth—until Archie spotted two coyotes, made an abrupt turn, and gave chase. The larger coyote headed for Garden with Archie in pursuit, until Archie's machine sputtered and stopped. He jumped off and began kicking it and cursing. Phil chased after the second coyote on the new machine he was driving. With Archie decommissioned, it fell to Phil to defend the honor of the group, which he did by ramming the coyote. It flew up, looking for a moment like it would come down on Phil's head. He dodged and missed it, and then came back around and came at it again. He got so close to it that its tail was brushing his machine. Twisting the throttle, he hit it squarely from behind but it just rolled off. Now they were running side by side; he could have reached out and stroked its mane.

Racing along like that, Phil had a brainstorm: why not grab its tail? Everything was going along too quickly for him to ask himself if this maneuver might end badly, so he slowed a little and



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grabbed the coyote's bushy tail. But with his hands numb and covered with snow, Phil could not keep a grip. The coyote looked at this annoyance and abruptly changed direction, easily pulling free and bounding into the Garden Island woods.

When Phil rejoined his friends on the shore of Beaver's harbor, he told them about the daring near capture. One of them expressed a little skepticism, which evaporated when Phil unclenched his fist and revealed a clump of silvery brown hair.

Twenty Years Ago The October '73 *Beacon* said the Civic Association was looking for ways to expand the Island's appeal during the shoulder season.

Bing McCafferty's contract proposal for building the first stage of the Fire Hall for \$54,000 was accepted.

A speedy response by Alvin LaFreniere and other Fire Department members saved the life of Liz LaFreniere, who'd suffered a heart attack.

Ed Wojan reported that at the meeting he arranged between the public and Vic Shapley, owner of the Island Telephone Company, the public seemed willing to give Vic time to act on his promise of improved service. But if he did not perform, they would band together and take "whatever stringent action" was required.

The electric company also held a public meeting to explain why the cable had broken three times. Both of the '83 breaks were due to a barge dragging its anchor. Repairs cost around \$200,000 each time. A new cable was promised for the following year.

Thirty Years Ago The combined Sept-Oct *Beacon* contained a letter from Barbara Pierson about her part-time jobs on Beaver Island the previous three summers: driving a cab for Stanley Floyd, tending bar at the *Beachcomber*, and selling shipwreck furniture for Robert Gillespie. She felt that the experience she gained dealing with people was at least as important as what she learned in the classroom between her assignments here.

The teaching staff for the school was announced: Sister Nancy Maiburg, Sister Agatha Artman, Sister Mary Jane Halsey, Sister Emeliana Judis, and Sister JoAnn Boucher.

Passings noted included Frank O'Donnell, who had been born on the Island in 1894.

Forty Years Ago The *Beacon* reported that the summer had seen a lot of building on Beaver Island. Henry Allen's development at Donegal Bay topped the list, the Island Club Woods Resort with its riding stable and heated pool. The new Episcopal Church went up, as well as barns for Perry Crawford and Donus Welke. Father Wren oversaw a groundbreaking ceremony for the new rectory between the Medical Center and the Church, which was to include a chapel in the basement where daily services could be conducted in the winter.

The game news report stated that there were plenty of birds to shoot, and rabbits, but the squirrels did not seem abundant. Charlie Martin was taking about 75# of whitefish a day from his pound net at Hog Island. For the past three years St. James Township had raised a fawn in a pen at the Yacht Dock as a tourist attraction, with Mary Gatliff and Perry Gatliff taking turns for the thrice-a-day feedings.

Passings noted included Elizabeth Maloney, widow of Island school teacher John Maloney, E. E. Chase, the son of the engineer who was killed on Beaver Island, and Johnny Green--the oldest Islander at 92. He started sailing for the Bonner brothers, and became an expert on marine lore, particularly the mysteries surrounding Lake Michigan

shipwrecks. Over 200 of his songs were recorded.

In response to a letter from Anna and Ira Hill printed the previous month, a letter was received from Jesse Cole in Miami. He explained that he was the only living son of Gat and Julia Cole, whom the Hills had written about, and recounted how Dr. Armstrong had treated him for a head injury at Nomad in the early 1920s, coming from Charlevoix in a plane that landed on Lake Geneserath's ice.

The *Sundew* came over, not to break ice but to give its crew and their families a picnic. Ninety people disembarked and were driven to the ball diamond. Afterwards the school kids were given a tour of the boat.

The annual round-up of cattle took place. The *Beaver Islander* took cows to the mainland from the Jordan River Ranch (Bud McDonough, Lawrence McDonough, and Henry Allen), the Green Acres Ranch (Russ Green), and the Hill Top Ranch (the Schmidts). The packed ferry had a smooth ride.

The *Circle M* opened under the ownership of Jack and Eileen Martin.

A note appeared about the five graves behind Liz Gallagher's home. One belonged to Henry Clifton, who managed the Dormer Store at Whiskey Point at the time of his death in 1877. A protestant minister, George Whitney, officiated, the first since the Mormon era. The other graves were unknown.



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Beaver Island Wildlife Club's "Successful Hunter" Contest

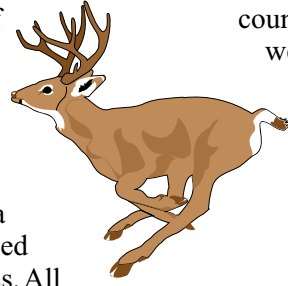
The Beaver Island Wildlife Club will be the sponsor of a successful hunter contest. The purpose of the contest is to encourage all successful hunters to register their deer at a designated site so that we may begin compiling important and pertinent data about our Whitetail herd. For the last several years record keeping has been limited to records kept by the boat company when a deer was shipped off the island or to the few that were recorded by Bill at McDonough's Market. With the full cooperation of the DNR we hope to change that by rewarding successful hunters by giving them a chance to win a shot gun or a hunting knife.

The contest is quite simple. If you are a licensed hunter and harvest a deer by bow, rifle, or black-powder between October 1st 2003 and January 1st, 2004 you may be eligible to win a Mossberg 12 gauge shotgun or a hunting knife. You may enter deer of any sex and as many times as your license will allow. The check-in sites will be Power's Ace Hardware, McDonough's Market, The Beaver Island Boat Company, and Welke Airport. You will be required to record you name, address, ticket num-

ber, kill tag number, and sex of deer. If the deer is a buck the points will be recorded. You may bring in the head or the entire animal but it must be legally tagged. At the time of registration you will be given a ticket. That ticket must be filled in with your name and address. All tickets will be held in safe keeping until the drawing on January 2, 2004. The drawing will be held at Power's Ace Hardware and we will ask Deputy Campbell to do the honors. You do not need to be in attendance to win. We will notify you if you are the winner. If you are a minor you must be accompanied by an adult to claim your prize.

The first prize is a Mossberg 12 gauge shotgun. It is a model 835 and is capable of a 2-½ inch to 3-½ inch shell. There will be two additional drawings for hunting knives—a Schrade Pro hunter and KA-BAR.

We are currently conducting a deer census survey. Working with Brian Mastenbrook from the DNR we began the survey on July 15th and will end October 1st. Members from the club have driven an established route to



count deer at least three times a week. They have counted all possible deer and tried to identify fawns, does, and bucks. All unknown deer are recorded also. After three years of this type of observation we will have a better idea of the buck to doe ratio and the overall numbers of the herd.

We will be having a Big Buck Contest again this year. Look for the signs closer to the opening of firearm season on November 15th. Rules and regulations will be posted.

The club is sponsoring a rifle raffle this year. The rifle is a Winchester Model 70, 300 W.S.M., gold engraved with the wildlife club logo. Tickets are \$10.00 each and can be purchased at Power's Ace Hardware or from a WLC member. The rifle is on display at the hardware store.

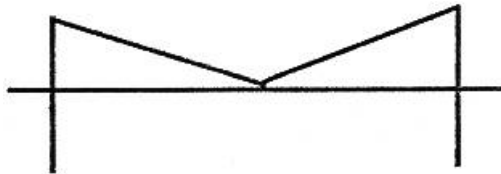
The annual Hunters' Dinner will be held at Holy Cross Parish Hall on Sunday, November 16th.

Now get out into the woods and be successful!

—Lois Williams, secretary

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Charlevoix County Commissioners

Meeting of August 27, 2003:

Commissioner Reinhardt was absent.

Motion approved the minutes of the August 13, 2003 meeting.

Greg Piaskowski presented the annual report for the Area Agency on Aging.

Motion approved Resolution #03-057, accepting agreement for the purpose of acquiring project authorization for (4) buses with lifts.

Motion approved and authorized the Chairman to sign the Boyne City easement agreement.

Motion re-approved both revised storm water ordinances (1999 & 2001) and requested the Clerk to publish them.

Motion adjourned the meeting.

Meeting of September 10, 2003

on Beaver Island; Commissioner Jason was absent.

Motion approved the minutes of the August 27, 2003 meeting.

Motion approved Resolution #03-058, P.A. 416 Grant Application. Acceptance of the grant application for the renewal of the 2003/2004 grant for Secondary Road Patrol and Traffic Accident Prevention Program, and authorized the Chairman of the Board to execute the same.

Motion approved Resolution #03-059 Grandvue Operating Transfer.

Motion approved Resolution #03-060 Grandvue Operating Transfer.

Motion adjourned the meeting.

—Jane E. Brannon, County Clerk

Feeling Lucky?

Good for you, because Las Vegas is coming to Beaver Island on Saturday, November 29th (Thanksgiving week-end.)

Holy Cross Hall will become the Golden Nugget for one night, with blackjack, craps, roulette, over and under, and bingo. A cash bar will be available, with waitress so your winning streak won't be interrupted.

The only thing missing is Wayne Newton—and we've got a call in!

There'll be an auction at the end of the gaming, with loads of wonderful prizes. Bring a friend and come and enjoy another of the fun-filled events brought to you by PABI—the team behind our not-so-far-in-the-future Community Center.

Montserrat, anyone?

In the middle of the 2nd week of September the MSU Extension service held a retreat for the managers of its Western Michigan county offices. They stayed at the Emerald Isle Hotel, and held various work sessions in its conference room. On their first night on the Island they were addressed by two local speakers, the Peaine

Township Supervisor and the Director of the Historical Society. After hearing about the Island, one of them, Jack Rozdilsky, was struck by the similarities between Beaver and Montserrat, the subject of his burgeoning PhD dissertation. They are of similar size, he said (Montserrat is 11 miles by 4), and culture: Montserrat has a strong Irish

heritage, which it is featuring in its plans to increase its tourism. Both are fiercely independent. He was so struck by other parallels that he offered to return this fall and give a talk on the Caribbean island and what we might learn about Beaver from a closer study. Details are being worked out for a presentation later this fall.



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Charlevoix County Road Commission holds meeting on Beaver Island

On September 22nd the CCRC held a regular meeting in the Peaine Township Hall, with 25 Islanders in attendance. After approving their minutes and taking care of other business they got into some Island issues—starting with the Main Street extension southward into a parking lot. The Road Commissioners thought it sounded like a good idea, and asked St. James Supervisor Don Vyse, who was in the audience, if there had been any negative comments. He replied that some people had been opposed to the proliferation of asphalt but had not objected to the *concept* of a parking lot there. One of the Commissioners responded that the pavement would be better than gravel because it would stabilize the ground and retard erosion.

The multitude of users was listed again: school teachers and kids; those attending events at the Parish Hall; those coming to the beach; and downtown shoppers. Keith Ogden, one of the Commissioners, asked, “If you didn’t create the parking lot, but expanded the public beach, where would the people it draws park?”

Nevertheless a public meeting will have to be held before the CCRC issues its approval or rejection. The contiguous property owners will be notified—there are only three, and the one not party to the land swap is, according to Ed Wojan, in complete accord. The meeting was set for November 10th at 11:00 a.m. at the CCRC building in Boyne City.

The next local topic was the new subdivision roads behind the School, which were ready to be accepted into the County Road system. Ed Wojan said that the Karnes would deed the Donegal Bay Road right-of-way to the county. Unfortunately

a legal description of the center line had not been completed, so this was put off until the next meeting.

The CCRC financial statement was distributed, prompting much gnashing of teeth. “We’re back in the red again,” the secretary remarked.

In the public comment portion, two matters were brought up: the dangerous parking at the Donegal Bay playground (a member of the Port St. James POA Board predicted that the members would veto the CCRC creating parking for a public beach within its right-of-way), and the difficulty of eliminating the chatters in the roads without having decent gravel. Moving the crusher to the new South End pit will help, it was thought, but the real “final solution” would be to pave all our roads.

After the meeting adjourned, a second meeting was held to discuss designating Mrs. Redding’s Trail as a Scenic Beauty Road, which would prohibit widening or trimming. The CCRC had been petitioned to make this change by 45 Western Shores property owners, and 13 had written letters of support. No one had spoken against this change.

But it was pointed out that the section between the Stone Circle and the intersection with Western Shores Road had not been improved, despite a promise almost ten years ago, and there were some dangerous curves. Safety trumps aesthetics, it was said, so these spots should be fixed before the road is changed. Pat Harmon, the CCRC manager, said he would widen the road where needed, but the Board thought it should follow standard policy and not make any change in its designation until receiving a formal request for redesignation from Peaine Township.

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'Haunted' Lake Michigan Lights

On October 18th the West Michigan Tourist Association and the Beaver Island Boat Company are providing another unique weekend get-away called "Haunted Lighthouses of Lake Michigan."

The main attraction will be a wonderful slide show presented by Dianna Stampfer, WMTA's Marketing & Media Director. The travelogue-style show spotlights the historic lighthouses, keepers, legends and ghost stories associated with the official Lake Michigan Circle Tour route. Each traveler will also receive a Lighthouse Guide, which maps out more than 115 beacons along the 1100-mile route through Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, and Indiana.

Attendees will get a 3-hour tour of the Island and a view of its lighthouses. Unfortunately the renovation of the Head Light will keep guests from climbing the tower this year. This type of event fits perfectly with the Chamber's goal to promote more off-season tourism so people can discover the beauty our Island offers year 'round.

A Call for Lighthouse Art

Dr. Annette Perkins, director of the Lighthouse Inn Art Fair in Adrian, has invited Island artists to show their work there this November. Contact her at LHIP@tc3net.com



Don't Miss the 'Bite of Beaver'

Following last month's announcement of the Second Annual Bite of Beaver Island, from **1:00 - 4:00 p.m.** on **October 4th** at the Hall, we have a last minute change to report. Instead of a barn dance (in a barn) as was planned for Saturday evening, this year, back by popular demand, *The New Third Coast Band* will be providing live music at the Shamrock Bar and Restaurant starting around 8:00 or 9:00 p.m. Everyone had a great time last year, so be sure not to miss this year's events on October 4th!

The First Annual Island Boodle

And we want to remind everyone about the First Annual Island Boodle which will kick off the day's events starting at **10:00 a.m.** in front of the Holy Cross Hall. Mike and Gail Weede have been putting in many hours to plan the event and we hope it will be a great success. There will be something for everyone – a 5K run as well as a walk for those who are... well... less speedy like ourselves. There's still time to register - Call (231) 448-3195 or (231) 448-2708



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News from the Townships

St. James Twp., September 3, 2003

With 17 observers, the St. James Board waded through the typically lengthy agenda for its September meeting.

The Supervisor made some remarks—Paradise Bay Park needs sprucing up; the “Putting the Pieces together” letter in circulation was full of misinformation.

The Yacht Dock rehab will include tearing up the cracked floor and replacing it rather than trying to patch it. The tennis court has been patched, but new cracks have opened. They too could be patched (for \$8,500), whereas a new double surface would cost \$44,000.

A draft of the Bike Path Ordinance was studied and a little tweaking made. The reference to motorized wheelchairs, which are allowed, has to be tightened so no Segues can sneak past.

The Board resolved that it had no objection to St. James Marine's request for bottom land at the former Gillespie

Dock, and, further, it supports a prompt approval.

Kitty McNamara and Ken Taylor had stated they would accept reappointment to the BITA Board for new 3-year terms, so those appointments were made.

The Board approved hiring Michigan Appraisal of Charlevoix to appraise the land it wants to acquire at the bluff end of the Township Airport. The cost of the appraisal will count towards the 5% match the Townships must make.

The Main Street extension parking lot bids were received: only one, from H & D, for \$116,202. Gary Vogt explained that H & D had told him no local subcontractors had supplied bids, so the price was double what had been expected. For example, for it to install the two light posts it used a bid from a Lansing contractor (who would have to barge them over and then bring in and house his crew) of \$20,050. The Board, feeling the local contractors might now have more time to bid than they'd had last month, voted to reject this bid and ask for rebids, with the completion date pushed back to June 1st.

The Charlevoix County Planning Commission accepted St. James' request to rezone 11 lots from R-1 to Harbor in the parking lot area. Also, Don and Kay Masini agreed to swap their 60' between the old and new beach playground for a comparable 60' of land at the south end of the new playground, allowing the new public beach to be continuous. St. James will move the wood fence to its south line to clearly separate public and private areas.

The township has the *right of first* refusal on some acreage behind Gull Harbor, for which a buyer has now appeared at \$60,000. Since this land is gravelly and wooded with cedars, and no immediate need to acquire it was evident, the Board declined buying it.

The Supervisor announced that another possible acquisition was in the works: most of the Petritz land north of Jum McDonough's house, thanks to the Nature Conservancy and a private benefactor. This property contains 540' of shoreline and varies in depth from

1,000' to 1,700'.

Shots were taken at the Charlevoix County Road Commission for not having cleaned up the sand put down for traction on the snow the last two winters. The possibility of hiring a street-cleaner did not get much support because the cost would be \$125/hour plus expenses. A lease of a street-cleaning machine through BITA and MDOT was also very expensive.

Larry Malloy's offer to purchase a Town Clock as a gift to the Township was gladly accepted. It might be placed in Paradise Bay Park.

The Board voted to levy the maximum amount of tax for its five or six projects.

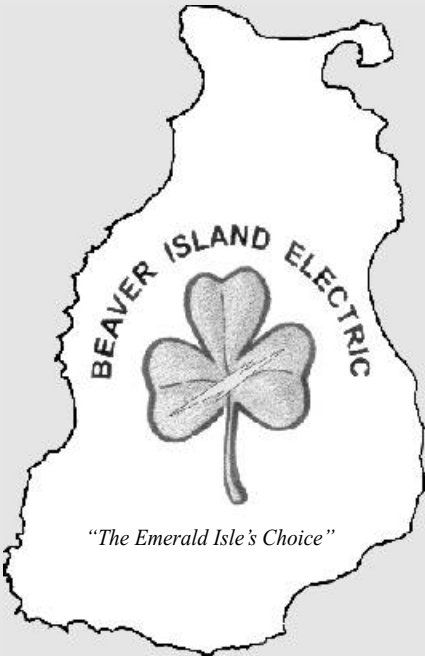
A letter was approved for submission to Peaine to begin a serious discussion of correcting the imbalance of what property owners in the two townships pay, dollar-wise, for the same levies; because of the growth of Peaine, when millage is levied people in St. James pay 43% more than those in Peaine.

A few questions from the audience before adjournment produced the information that the Blight Ordinance might require a Blight Ordinance Officer for its enforcement.

Peaine Twp., September 10, 2003

The primary purpose of this meeting, attended by 14 residents, was to set the millages for the next fiscal year. But before starting in on this task, a letter was read from St. James Township Supervisor Don Vyse in which he asked Peaine to consider the unfairness of the current method by which the two townships fund those parts of our infrastructure which they hold in common. The inequity, Don said, was that by each township being responsible for half the cost, individual millages assessed to the taxpayers were significantly higher in St. James because of Peaine's higher total valuation. Another problem, Don added, was that Peaine used 85% of the gravel being crushed by the Townships' machine, but St. James still had to pay half of its cost.

The Board was not moved by this letter. Peaine Supervisor John Works



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said that while both townships paid equally for the crusher, each township paid its own pit charge for the gravel it used. As for Peaine using more gravel, he wondered how much use of Peaine's roads was by residents of St. James. He cited the case of Charlevoix Township, which has paved all of its roads with revenues generated by the Medusa plant, and wondered if it would be appropriate for the other townships in Charlevoix County to ask for a share of this windfall. As for the general inequity, he cited other instances of it being the reverse: most of the garbage handled at the Transfer Station came from St. James, for example.

Raising revenue through millages was an imperfect arrangement anyway, he added. Take two neighbors in the same township. One might pay fifty dollars for fire protection while his neighbor pays a hundred.

Someone mentioned that when the relative valuations of the townships were different and St. James was the greater, it did not offer to make an adjustment. And in some areas Peaine has agreed to pay a monetary amount equal to that raised in St. James through millage, such as with the BIRHC, the EMS, and the BIHS. In conclusion, the Board was not motivated to make any changes regarding this matter at this time.

In the setting of property taxes, the BIRHC was one of the few exceptions to matching the dollar amount of St. James. For the Med Center Peaine agreed to assess 1.9128, the same as St. James. And the airport, which was set at 0.56. But the Historical Society and the EMS were pegged at \$8,197 and \$24,975, increases of \$500 and \$3,500; these amounts will come from the General Fund. For the Transfer Station \$57,182 is needed; calculating backwards, its millage was put at 1.1944. The Contingency Amount did not seem sufficient, so it was voted to increase it by \$5,000. This meant the General Fund allotment would require millage of 3.6555 for a total levy of 8.9815.

Jack Kelly spoke about the Recreation Plan. He said that its approval would qualify the Township

for state grants, particularly for trail development. One DNR grant in particular that he had researched would pay for creating trails so long as the Township agreed to maintain them, and he asked for the Board's authorization to pursue it. The Trails Committee chairman seemed to be taken by surprise, and the Supervisor urged the two groups to work out the details together. The Board approved Jack's request.

A letter from the Nature Conservancy indicated it wished that the new access signs, which the Access Committee placed on over ten locations, be removed from its land at Barney's Lake and Little Sand Bay because it will only allow its style of signage.

Judy Lanier reported on the Planning Commission's survey, now scheduled for mailing and compilation by the MSU Extension in early October. She said each township will develop its own master plan, which will each be included in some way within the framework of the new Island-wide zoning ordinance. She distributed an approved outline, which contained six parts: Master Planning for Peaine; Peaine's people envision their future; a close look at Peaine today; where is Peaine heading; Master Planning for Peaine's future; and actions, timetables, and implementation/evaluation methods for the Master Plan. She also distributed a brief analysis of the only approved Island Master Plan, St. James' plan of 1994.

Judy explained that St. James was upgrading their Master Plan, and it had decided to hire a consultant to perform this task. She said Peaine would need to hire a consultant as well, but to do much less because her committee was doing so much of the necessary work; Peaine would not have to spend anything near the \$20,000 St. James anticipated.

In the public comments that followed, Terry Saxton brought up the condition of the roads, which can in part be blamed on bad weather and inadequate supplies of gravel. Supervisor Works said the Pingel gravel pit should be of some help. Saxton asked if the Road

Commission could be moved to the Peaine Fire Hall site, but was told it was not large enough. Saxton also suggested giving Peaine's share of the Yacht Dock to St. James before any lawsuit hits. Works countered by suggesting a swap for St. James' portion of Iron Ore Bay.

New Island Crooner

The other side of the Martins—the McGinnises—arrived on Beaver for the Martin Reunion in late September. At the Parish Hall party they were surprised by who took the mike to sing with Edward Palmer and gave a fine performance: none other than Bud Martin.

Truck Raffle

The BIRHC's truck raffle wound up selling 429 tickets. The winner at the Labor Day drawing was Nicole LoDico Morea. Other winners: Bob Welke, the 50-50 (\$2,400); Pam O'Brien, the Lois Stipp painting; and Chad Beers won the bracelet made by Nancy Peterson.



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Suttons Bay Anthropology Club Digs Out History

Test pits, sifting screens, and historical reference were all part of the Beaver Island Archaeology Summer School this year. Again this summer, Suttons Bay teacher Terri Bussey led thirty-seven Suttons Bay high school students and eight chaperones to actively participate in this year's eight-day experience. As a focus of the Suttons Bay Anthropology Club, the students have worked with archaeology on Beaver Island for the past four summers. The club started five years ago, springing from an anthropology class offered at Suttons Bay School. Students are specially chosen for the club if they show high interest in the subject, maintain good grades and display appropriate levels of maturity. Through the years, the club has traveled to St. Louis, Missouri, to visit the ancient city site of Cahokia, and also to the American Southwest to tour Chaco Canyon and the pueblo villages between Santa Fe and Taos, New Mexico. Student fundraisers and donations support the club.

This summer, as in the past, the students found early Native American and historic European artifacts from the turn-of-the-century era. Three sites were explored in test pit digs, excavating to a depth of two

feet. Each artifact was carefully cleaned, measured, drawn, and identified for later inclusion in displays of the Beaver Island Historical Society's museum.

The club works with the Museum Society to preserve and enrich the history of Michigan and the Beaver Island Archipelago. "It's a win-win situation," says club founder and director Terri Bussey. "Everyone benefits: the students, the Historical Society, our own State's history and we have fun doing it."

Arriving on the *Emerald Isle* on





June 23rd, the Junior and Senior students were taken by the Island Hopper Charter Service to Garden Island, where they made camp and did orienteering on the island. Garden Island has a rich Native American history and is a source of many legends and stories of the early Anishnabek.

On June 25th, the Freshmen and Sophomores arrived to make a base research camp at the Bill Wagner Campground. After establishing the camp, sites of interest were explored on the West Side of the Island at

Greenes' Bay and the St. James harbor area, in the lot behind Powers Hardware, and in the back yard of the Print Shop Museum. The town sites revealed many interesting items, including flint chips, a flint arrow point, and assorted buttons and metal snaps, as well as Native American and European pottery.

As part of this class, evenings were spent in camp, under the large dining canopy, reviewing the day's finds and sharing the legends and anthropology of the early Island inhabitants. In this unique summer school setting the students were responsible for maintaining and operating their rustic campground and living in the open. This confidence-building approach, along with the hands-on scientific research methods of archaeology, made for a well-rounded and stimulating educational experience.

—Terri Bussey

Thank you very much to Ken Scott for the wonderful photographs on these two pages. Most Beaver Islanders know Ken from his photos in the 1998 book *Charlevoix*, but you can see much more of his work on his web site at:
www.kenscottphotography.com



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Charming, small log home located on 2.1 acres in the quiet, country area of Beaver Island. Cozy and comfortable throughout the seasons, this 1½ story home was built in 1988 with whole Island logs hand-scribed to fit without chinking. Features a covered front porch with gardens, a spacious back deck, many natural views and great wildlife watching. The property also has an insulated, framed barn with room for cars, boats and/or a workshop. Property Value: \$175,000.00

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The Chamber raises its Sights

In keeping with a decision to concentrate on off-Island, shoulder-season advertising, reached at the June meeting, Beaver Island's progressive Chamber of Commerce has instituted a new fee schedule. To raise the funds for an extensive off-Island advertising program there will now be three main categories of membership for small (\$250), medium (\$500), and large (\$750) businesses, with memberships for second businesses pegged at \$150.

The key to Island viability is expanding the season past the summer's ten weeks, the Chamber Board realized. "We hate to have to charge this much, but it's necessary if we are to crack this tough nut," Chamber President Kathy Speck remarked. "I just hope our business community thinks this through and realizes that this is more an investment in their own future than a donation to the Tourist Information Center. It's either sink or swim in this unpredictable economy, so we're going to aggressively pursue all our options."

Another kudo goes to Steve West, Chamber of Commerce Director, for moving the production of the colorful new Rack Cards along. The 4" x 9" color cards advertise Beaver Island's many off-season attractions: leaves turning on the Greene's Lake oaks, kids frolicking in the ice caves, and spring flowers bursting into bloom. These cards will be placed in racks around the state and replenished when they run out. They're eye-catching enough to hook those who had no intention of coming here until seeing them, and the Chamber Board is optimistic about their effectiveness.

With all the effort put forth by the Chamber on their various projects, it sounds like they're on the right track, so we wish them the best of luck.

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Beaver Island Health Fair

Once again the "Community Health and Safety Fair" was an unqualified success. Held on September's 2nd weekend, it had something of interest for almost everyone on Beaver Island. Blood pressure was checked at one station while kids were being fingerprinted and photographed at another. There were hearing tests, eye tests, and bone density tests. Tetanus shots were administered, and procedures for keeping the heart healthy were explained. Gardening was touted for its many benefits, nutritional and psychological.

A pharmacist was on hand to discuss compatible medications. There was a veterinary stand to which many brought their pets. You name it, and it was demonstrated at the Fair.

The emphasis was on staying healthy and safe, but it was good to learn what specialties and services are available in nearby towns if this goal cannot be met.

The Poor Ironton Ferry

This time when the clutches went out on the Ironton Ferry, an increasingly common problem, they decided to replace them with the best. They were assured that the expensive new ones were built to exacting specifications, so they thought everything would be dandy.

Unfortunately the tolerances of the new clutches ranged from .005" to .010", and when more than one car was put on the ferry it would flex by— and this was calculated retroactively— .008", and the clutches would bind up and overheat. So the ferry is out of commission again, forcing some commuters to drive the equivalent of from CMU to the Golf Course—by way of Iron Ore Bay.

We're a Community

I attended a meeting recently and came home feeling unnerved and concerned about some of the comments.

Pulling out Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary, I obtained the definition of an islander: a native or inhabitant of an island. It confirmed my belief that we who live on Beaver Island are all united, concerned citizens, and truly Islanders.

With all the turmoil and unrest in our world, I challenge people to face things on our Island in a positive, sensitive manner, and solve our issues peacefully.

Let's send a good message to our young people who will be making important decisions for their future on the Island. We are privileged to live in 'Paradise,' and this calls us to be concerned about our Island home and work together to accomplish our goals harmoniously.

It would be wonderful if we could all say we're perfect, but we can't. I think we should all obtain copies of the prayer of St. Francis of Assisi and strive to practice its message.

— Skip McDonough

Powers' Golf Tournament

In the 3rd annual Powers' Ace Hardware Golf match of Sept. 17th, three teams tied for 1st and 4 more for 2nd.

Thanks to Robert Gillespie

for taking a second load of untrusty junkers off the Island at no cost, this time twelve. And to Jim Slough, the Island Airways pilot who hauls them to East Jordan for only \$30; and to Jean Palmer for coordinating the beautification program in addition to her many other duties.



Back by Popular Demand,
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History in the News



At its September 18th meeting the Beaver Island Historical Society approved two long-planned projects.

Anticipating the arrival of a DEQ permit to drive support posts into the flood plane at the Marine Museum, the Board voted to pursue the other required permits and, if they are issued, to build a roof over the *Bob S*, hopefully this fall. The plan is to continue the look of the net shed that serves as the museum by matching its pitch and materials, and to preserve the view of the lake by building a structure that can eventually be glassed in on its ends. For now the roof will be open, so extra precautions will have to be taken to prevent it being picked up by the wind and sailed over to Garden Island. Plans are to chain it to an anchor removed several years back by a diver (and BIHS

member) from a sunken ship.

The other project authorized was to send Robert Cole to both Detroit and Chicago this fall to interview people with stories and memories about the old times on Beaver Island. If anyone has a name to include on his list, be sure to let him know – 448-2254.

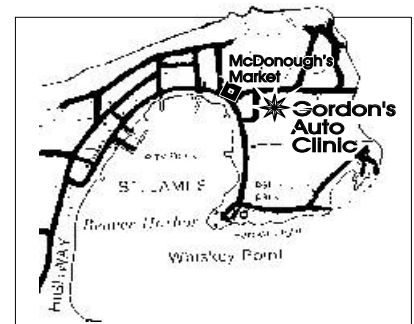
The Board also agreed to accept an artifact offered by Jim Wojan – the first road grader on Beaver Island (see photograph above), a prehistoric-looking steel contraption that still works – and place it on a slab and under a green hip roof at Heritage Park.

Facing having to reprint *Child of the Sea* by recreating the manuscript (the plates used for the last edition were lost by the printer), the Board also decided to add some biographical and explanatory material as an afterward.

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BIRHC Board Thanks Community for Support

Throughout the summer, the Beaver Island Rural Health Center has been the recipient, in many ways, of extraordinary generosity from the community it serves. The biggest fundraiser was our truck raffle. Four hundred and twenty-nine permanent and seasonal residents and visitors bought tickets allowing us to surpass last year's total of 400. A number of non-board members pitched in under the hot August sun to boost sales. The Board sends a special thank you to Dave Roop, John Robert, Nancy Tritsch, Leonor Jacobson, Sharon Nix and Kirk McBride for their efforts on behalf of the health center. The nine current board members set an example for the community by personally purchasing a total of 39 tickets. McDonough's Market made an essential contribution to the raffle's success by allowing us to make the store our primary selling location and by taking time during their busiest season to sell tickets for us. Raffle chairman Joe Reed did an outstanding job, scheduling sellers, moving the truck from place to place and, for the second year, putting in more hours in at McDonoughs and selling far more tickets than anyone else. Revenue from the raffle will provide funds to supplement the health center's operating budget during the fall months.

A second example of the community's recent support is John Martin and Molly Resnik's donation of a 1994 Ford mini-van in excellent condition to the health center. The Blue Book value of the vehicle is \$4,900. The entire BIRHC Board expresses its sincerest thanks to John and Molly for this extremely generous donation.

Larry K. Tepe 1965-2003

Larry K. Tepe, 37, of Elkhart, Indiana, died at his parents' home on September 13, 2003 of natural causes.

He was born on December 15, 1965, in Elkhart to Dennis O. and Jan A. (Pedler) Tepe. His parents survive along with his former wife, Krista Tepe of South Bend; a brother Steve (Jill) of Elkhart; and his grandmother, Frances Tepe of Elkhart. One brother, Gary, preceded him in death.

The Beaver Island Boat Company extended its long support of community health by once again donating the entire cost of transporting the Karmanos mammogram van to and from the island in mid September. The van's visit allowed island women to get a crucial screening without incurring the expense of traveling to the mainland. In addition, the Boat Company approved donating half of the cost of ferrying a truck that brought donated equipment for the new health center. The total value of the Boat Company's donation was just short of \$1000.

Finally, retiring BIRHC Auxiliary President Marilyn Damstra presented the health center with a check for \$4379.00. During her twenty years of involvement with the Auxiliary, Marilyn has organized and led dozens of fundraisers such as the Summer Fashion shows and the Holiday Balls that have provided crucial supplementary income to the health center. Marilyn was honored by BIRHC at this year's July fashion show, not only for the money she has raised over the years, but also for the enjoyment her events have provided to the community. Her presence will be sorely missed.

In conclusion, the entire BIRHC Board of Directors would like to thank the community for its continued support over the summer months. We are greatly heartened by the fact that, despite the controversy over recent board decisions, residents, businesses and visitors recognize the importance of preserving one of the institutions most essential to life on Beaver Island.

Larry was vice president of Tepe Sanitary Supply in Elkhart since 1990. He was a 1984 graduate of Memorial High School, where he was a vasily swimmer. He graduated from Ball State University in 1988 with a degree in business. He was a graduate of the Elkhart Leadership Academy and a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity. He loved boating, swimming, snow skiing and vacationing at Beaver Island.

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BIRHC Meeting: 9-16-2003

Those coming to the September 16th BIRHC meeting, which was held at Peaine Township Hall, were met at the door by Fire Chief Tim McDonough, who counted entrants to make sure the limit of 99 was not breached. Luckily only 85 appeared.

After the minutes were corrected, the financial statement was passed around. Income was running ahead of the budget projection by \$15.5k, but employee expenses were over the projection by \$5.5k, the cost of contract services was \$7.5k over, and overhead was \$14.5k over. From these figures, it seemed we were running about \$43k in the red—about 10%, a fact that was attributed to the fall-off in tourism.

On the bright side, 429 raffle tickets were sold, allowing the truck raffle to meet its \$25,000 goal. And the Michigan Council of Foundations was working to put together funding to replace the lost State operating stipend.

Ann Glendon brought up the question of a possible violation of the Open Meetings Act, saying that she had received some pro bono legal analysis from two attorneys, each of whom said no wrongdoing had been done. This opinion was shared, she added, by the Charlevoix Prosecutor, who was brought into the dispute with CCG (the Concerned Citizens Group) by members of the CCG.

Arlene Brennan circulated and discussed her Transition Manager's report. Sue Solle has been hired as our new practi-

tioner, she said; she (Matt Hahn's daughter) and her husband (Dr. Christie's son) have bought a home on Paid een Og Road.

The number of patient encounters this year stood at 2,203, down 7% from last year. The ongoing attempt to collect past-due accounts saw six turned over for collection and two sent to Small Claims court—where one paid in full. To investigate outsourcing billing, three companies were contacted. They all would be glad to take over from here forward, but none were willing to take on the past-dues. But Donna Kubic has made great strides in mastering the billing process, and the number of unresolved accounts was quickly diminishing under her management.

Chris VanLoy's report mentioned that 51 women used the Karmanos Mammogram bus. There was a flurry of bad insect bites in August, including one to a child whose severe reaction required a Coast Guard evacuation. Northflight was used once to transport a sick adult as well, with other transports conducted by Island Airways (at a fraction of the cost.)

The construction report stated that \$587,555 had been paid, and that the project was 52% done. Bids were put out for the phone system; Thomas Communications' bid was accepted because it was significantly under the other two. It was thought that the work was exactly on schedule.

Board president Connie Wojan announced that the committee which had been negotiating with Wendy White

would be replaced by a new committee that would include two of the new Board members. Later Dr. Paul Nelson, who had been on the original committee, said he was surprised that this was done, and puzzled, and hoped the new committee would include someone with dental experience. Still later Dr. White said she hoped Paul would be on the new committee.

Pete LoDico asked the Board for a letter promising to deed to the Beaver Island Development Corporation, his group's name, that portion of the Traudt/Gill land bequest earmarked for senior housing. They agreed to do this before 9-23. Pete also mentioned that John Martin and Molly Resnick had donated a \$5,000 van to the BIRHC.

The moment arrived for appointing new Board members. Connie said no CCG members had applied; Kirk McBride, the CCG Chair, said the present candidates met with CCG approval. The six interviews were summarized, although Jeff Powers had withdrawn after his interview because of constraints on his time.

The first question on which the Board voted was on how many people to add. The Board was polled about the ideal size, with most suggesting downsizing rather than increasing its numbers from twelve. The issue became whether to add three to the nine remaining, or five (100 people had signed a petition asking for all 5 to be accepted), and the Board voted to add three. The nominating committee recommended Brad Grassmick, Eula Thomas,

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and Angel Welke, and the Board approved. Later Dr. Mark Folkening, one of the other candidates (with Nancy Tritsch), offered to help in any way he could and suggested that a doctor be involved with billing as a way to improve the collection rate.

There was a brief discussion of the "office hours" idea; when it was posted on the web the day before, instead of individuals showing up to ask Connie their questions, 25 members of the CCG arrived, too many for the Medical Center's basement.

Kirk McBride said that Charlevoix County Commissioner Shirley Roloff had suggested, based on what she had heard, that the CCG discuss its grievances with the County Prosecutor. He said that he had written to various members of the Board to offer his assistance and ask for a meeting. He said there had been some harassment and attempted intimidation of CCG members, and consequently the CCG was prepared to proceed on two parallel tracks: mediation, and litigation. Referring to unstated specific incidents, Joe Reed said that the Board was not involved and so he wondered why this was being brought up. Kirk replied that the CCG will be seeking formal legal status, and intended to pursue charges "not necessarily against the Board." When asked by a Board member who exactly was in the CCG, about 35 of its members rose from their seats.

A discussion of mediation was interrupted by a question from Barb Murphy:

"just what do you want?" Kirk said his concerns had been stated time and again and he wasn't prepared at that moment to present an up-to-the-minute list. The president said she would be willing to enter into mediation if the groundrules were acceptable, but warned that she would not consider letting the result reverse any previous Board decision.

Connie announced that there would be no sign-up requirement, and the floor was opened for public comment. Cathy Bauman, the first to speak, complained of harassment. She said she had been looking into the Board having paid the return boat fare for a Parker Motor Freight truck after it had fulfilled its offer of not charging to deliver donated materials to the Med Center, which was not reflected in the minutes, and had been verbally assaulted by a member of the community. Then someone tore down her sign, and she found a nail driven into the side of her tire. Further, in a phone call with Connie she had been further threatened.

Connie admitted having lost her composure and retorting, "How would you feel if I sued you?" Other people in the audience said it was inconceivable that Connie would ever do anything that wasn't in the community's best interest. Bill McDonough said he was embarrassed that we had let this matter get so out of hand that the prosecutor was now involved, particularly since he knew how much work the volunteer board had done – from 500 to 2,000 hours a year each. Bill's state-

ment generated a round of applause.

Eula Thomas asked what percentage of unpaid bills fell into the 90-180 day category; the answer was not known. She suggested that of the three people now sending out bills, one should have clear responsibility.

The talk swung back to the CCG. Gary Morgan said he had joined because he did not think Susan had been treated fairly. Someone else said that not everyone in sympathy with the CCG cause was willing to acknowledge it because of the fear of harassment. Because of the ongoing differences, mediation was again suggested; the prosecutor had suggested using Northern Michigan Mediation, a free service. "Communication has always been the big bugaboo," Don Spencer said. He was in favor of mediation so long as entering into it would not affect the Board's 501c3 status or have any other legal downside. Joe Reed too supported mediation in order to avoid litigation, which would drain the BIRHC funds. Consequently Rick Speck moved to enter into mediation, so long as the question of possible legal consequences was resolved, and to request that the mediator begin by obtaining a list of specific grievances. Kirk said the CCG would no doubt forego litigation against the Board, although he could not control what individuals in the CCG with grievances against other individuals might do as individuals.

On that sunny note the meeting was adjourned.

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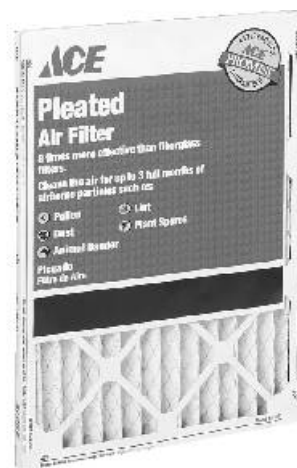
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 Splashing havoc, pulling the twisted debris,
 Tearing the lodge apart.
 Does he hope to drain the entire swamp?

It must be a ritual of spring,
 This home-wrecking spree.
 The ripping and tearing shrieks through the woods,
 Down toward the meadow of dead fallen trees.

He takes no joy in his grim task.
 Even admires the beavers' industry,
 But enjoys crashing trees in the summer night.
 Something calls to him each spring: take up your axe

Before the mosquitoes hatch.
 Loves the beavers; hates the swamp.
 Spewing pointed chewed logs from side to side,
 Sweat runs down his temples, into his eyes.

Straddling the stream, fissures form and mud cracks,
 His back aches, yet he must keep on.
 Keep on keep on keep on keep on
 Keep on, beaver man, keep on.

He is a kind man.
 Built his own lodge from trees around,
 And dug a well down at the lake.
 Using just his own two hands.

His bounty comes from forest and sea.
 He depends upon no man.
 The building inspector came the other day
 Nailed a notice: unhealthy, unsafe, fails to conform

Non-payment, back taxes, "must be torn down."
 Beaver man gnashes teeth and growls,
 Flinging branches into the air,
 Snarls and howls: Lord, why me?

So next spring the mosquitoes will come
 With no one to drain their pools.
 His lodge will give way to a vacation home.
 Whose new residents will gladly conform.

The beavers are safe for now,
 Until the cookie cutter bungalows move inland
 Covering drained swamps with lawn-from-a-box,
 Making room for follow-the-leader uses.

Let's all sing: one day they found him
 Trapped in the tangled debris, oh yes,
 Heart stopped from stress and strain.
 Oh no: beaver man. Could it be?

The beavers had already begun to build
 Over his pained and sorrowful bones. Not from
 revenge; it's just what they do.
 You're home now, Beaver man, where you belong.

—Ken Zick

Letters to the Editor:

Regarding the BIRHC

This letter is a follow-up to the August 19th, public board meeting of the BIRHC and is the result of the discussion pertaining to providing dental care to the Beaver Island community. A board member stated at this meeting that any money saved on construction is money which can be used to pay operational costs at a later date. His statement leads to the following question:

WHY, if the BIRHC needs the excess funds from the building project to operate the Beaver Island Medical Center, would the board approve Don Spencer's recommendation that the exterior siding be of #1 untreated cedar shakes? The board later did decide on the #2 quality untreated cedar shakes in order to save some money. Cedar shake siding is by far the most costly of the types of siding discussed, when we take into consideration the initial cost, fire danger, mainte-

nance, and higher insurance costs now and in the future. The board could have saved a substantial amount of money by using one of the other recommended lower-cost exterior sidings.

Money saved could have been used to help our dentist Dr. White set up her practice in the new building. After phone calls and e-mails in response to my previous comments, I have come to believe that the BIRHC should subsidize our dental care much as it does our medical care. I realize at this time it is too late to make construction changes to save additional money. In the future, however, I would like the board to think first about the community's medical and dental needs when making decisions. **I continue to be amazed at how the board squanders public funds in ways which do not directly benefit community health care.**

—Kenneth Jay Taylor

Letters to the Editor:

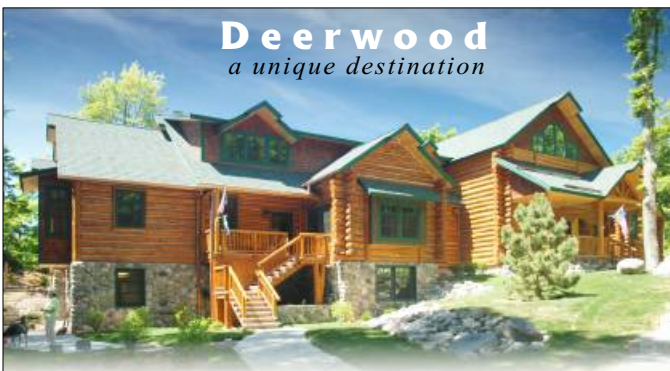
Terrorism on Beaver Island

Nobody likes the word terrorism, especially here in Paradise! However, that is exactly what has taken place over a 22 day period from August 19th to September 9th. Two threatening phone calls, two acts of intimidation, two acts of vandalism to the same family.

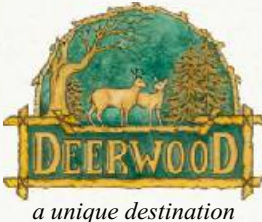
My 91 year old Mother is terrorized in her own home. She feels very unsafe, and violated... she is a victim of this senseless violence.

Threats of this nature are a crime. Phone threats are a crime. I refuse to sit by and be a victim. I have reported these acts to the local authorities, the Charlevoix County Prosecutor, and the Charlevoix Under Sheriff, and will go as far as these acts take me. I am on public record as to who may be the suspect(s) and will report any intimidations in the future. I've been told by many

Islanders that this stuff has gone on for years. That's just the way it goes here on Beaver Island. Most people who have been threatened allow themselves to be victims because they choose to hide (and complain) but refuse to make a police report of these acts. IT'S A CRIME, FOLKS... no matter who makes the threat. It's a SORRY day in Paradise when a person can call a resident and accuse that resident of a total lie, make threats because of that lie, and act out those threats because of that lie. If you've been threatened this year, last year, or 5 years ago, whenever, if you still feel intimidated by the person, it's a valid complaint and a CRIME... Report it. It's two women today and one is 90 plus years old. That's a disgrace for any community to accept as "that's the way it is here on Beaver Island." —Cathy Bauman






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One Hundred Years Ago

from *Synopsis of Early Charlevoix History* by Rosa Nettleton, compiled from *Charlevoix Sentinel* articles gathered by the Charlevoix Library. Rosa Nettleton was the wife of the County Surveyor, whose name appears on most of our early maps.

October 21, 1903: "An Island Outing"

Three September days (when it don't rain) on Beaver Island - three days with a hammerless breech loader, out in the old Mormon Fields and through the well trodden cattle paths along the beach and through the woods, are three days of rest for the weary laborer, and the writer of this had them last week.

On the way over, sitting on the deck of the steamer Beaver, we met an old acquaintance, who for twelve years has come up from Illinois to spend his vacation on Beaver Island. For twelve summers he has botanized along the woodside, geologized in the fields, and fraternalized with the hospitable people.

"The Sentinel has been singing the praises of Beaver Island for thirty-five years," we remarked.

"Yes," he replied, "and I am sorry for it."

"Why?"

"Because you have been an iconoclast. You have helped to destroy the good old Beaver Island, with its lingering memories and old ways; its bits of primitive nature teaching and its freedom from the taint of modern conventionalism. You have helped to drive out the old and bring in the new."

"But this must be, as a matter of business," we ventured.

"Yes, but I do not come here for business; I come to escape it," was the frank reply of our friend.

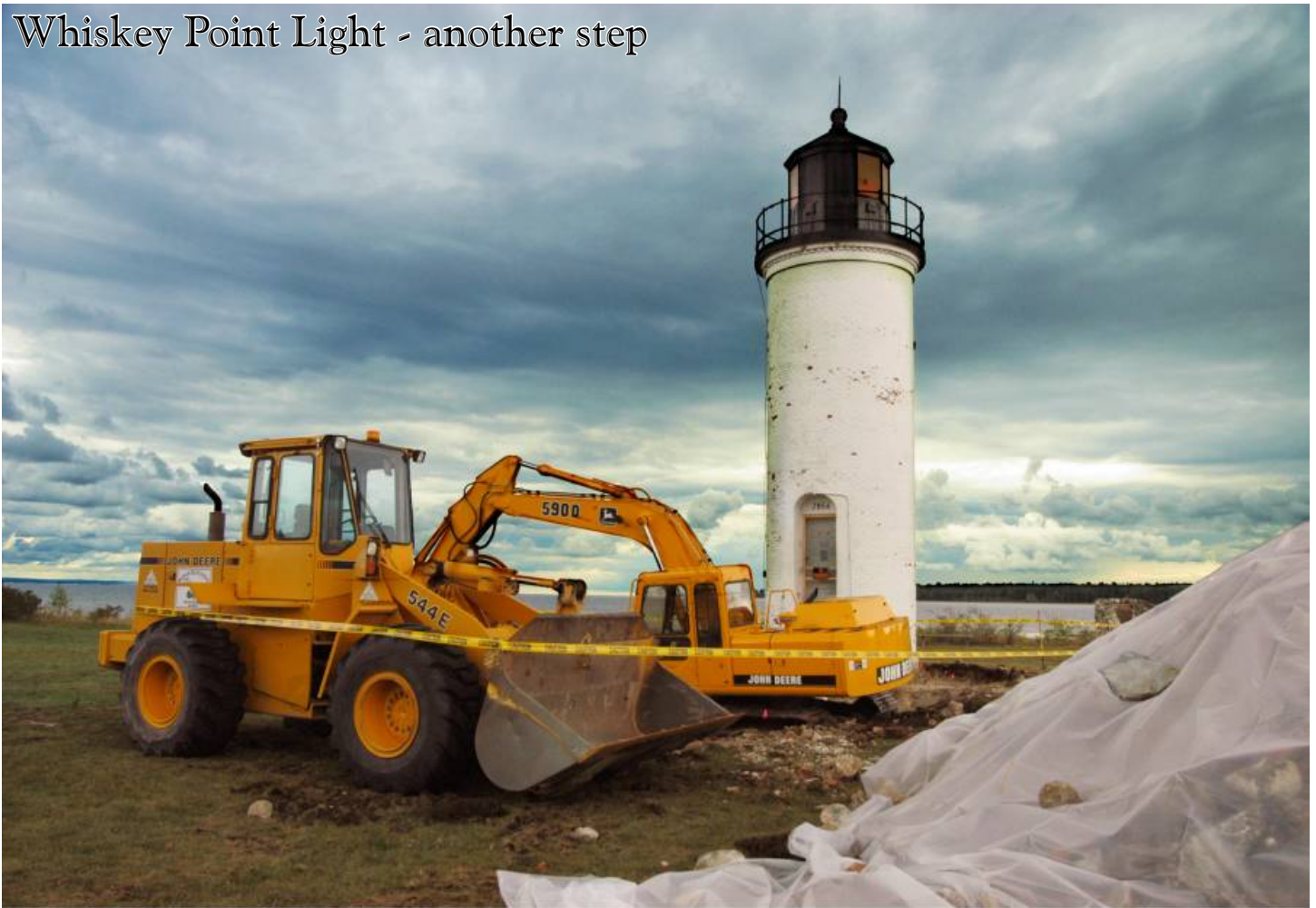
Well, he was right, but he was sensible to acknowledge that these changes must come. And the next morning we were thrown up against an object lesson. With Captain Bonner we rode out two miles along the right-of-way of the new railroad being built thru the heart of the Island by the Beaver Island Lumber Co., and along which much of the iron is already laid. If you were not expecting a vision, what would you think if you were riding out of St. James, where King Strang once held sway, to come suddenly upon a locomotive on a side track with "Pere Marquette" painted in big letters on the cab? Yet this is the vision that arose before us as we came around a curve in the road, and it was a reality. And then we thought of what our Illinois friend had said the day before. It was truly the beginning of a transformation from the old to the new order of things. Out through the old Mormon clearings winds the "Iron sinews of commerce" along past the beautiful evergreens glades into which the rabbit jumps as you pass; on to the western beach and then with a lunge into the interior again and on again toward the "King's Highway" which King Strang built more than fifty years ago. We pass the construction gang, and they are tamping dirt under the ties just for the world, as they do on the main land. We heard the ring of spike maul, and the clank of the rails as they are carried to the "front". And all this on Beaver Island.

Is it any wonder that the lover of nature should wail as the Jews wail at the walls of Jerusalem?

Next summer, when our friend comes up from Illinois with his microscope and his geologist's hammer he will hear the clang of the locomotive bell and the screech of the whistle at the crossings. He will see the log trains come in from the shores of Lake Genessaret and cedar ties from the forest about Mt. Pisgah."

—Joyce Bartels

Whiskey Point Light - another step



After the Whiskey Point Light grounds were surveyed by an archaeologist brought here by the Coast Guard

from Iowa in late July, another out-of-state specialist arrived from Pittsburgh to remove the contaminated soil on a blustery day in the middle of September. This was a necessary prerequisite to St. James Township acquiring this property—its application has been at the GAO since early August

Using heavy equipment leased from Jim Wojan, this group dug up three feet of earth in a circle around the Light Tower and deposited it in two ten-yard steel boxes for shipment to a sanitary landfill off the Island.

When they expanded their excavation northward in order to see if anything had leached under the slab, they encountered hundreds of old red bricks, which could have been part of the keeper's house. Unfortunately they too were contaminated by lead paint and could not be saved for GLLKA's planned reconstruction.

A few other artifacts—old cans and bottles and a fifteen inch square corner of a slate plaque—were turned over to the Beaver Island Historical

Society, which has provided much information to aid the restoration of both the Whiskey Point and Beaver Head lights.



Soil removal around the light revealed the keeper's house foundation and bricks.



The old cable was also unearthed.





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Carl Vertican Sr.: 1923 - 2003

Carl Frederick Vertican, Sr., age 80 of Kalkaska and formerly of Gaylord, died Friday, September 12, 2003. Mr. Vertican was born February 13, 1923 in Port Huron, MI. He was employed as a master mechanic at Holland Chevrolet in Marine City, 20 years for the Michigan Dept. of Natural Resources, and the last 23 years as an independent oil field contractor. He faithfully served his family and his Lord, and leaves a rich legacy of his love for his family and of his love for the great outdoors of northern Michigan.

He is survived by his wife of 60

years, E. Annette; his 3 sons Carl Jr., & Gary both of California, and David of Gaylord; daughter Carole Bearss of Virginia and Beaver Island; 17 grandchildren; 7 great-grandchildren; sister Pat Blackwell of Sebring, Fla., and many nieces and nephews.

Services were held September 16, 2003 in the Nelson Funeral Home in Gaylord, with interment at Otsego Lake Township Cemetery. Contributions in memory of Carl Vertican may be made to the Vertican family c/o the Nelson Funeral Home, 135 N. Center St. Gaylord, MI 49735.

Corrections:

Thought you'd want to correct a bit of misinformation in the BIRHC Disagreement Continues article on page 22 of your Sept. 2003 issue. The second sentence of the second paragraph reads, "For the first time there were more applicants than positions..."

When Susan Meis was hired three years ago, there were a dozen or more applicants. Jayne Bailey was on the Beaver Island Rural Health Center Board for 10 years and was then head of the BIRHC personnel search. With great dedication, she stated at that time that the two most qualified were hired.

I asked Jayne today if my recollections of three years ago were correct. She responded, "Yes. There were at least 12, possibly 14, qualified applicants."

—Marilyn Clark Duda

We apologize for stating in last month's Beacon that Dr. Wendy White had said she was threatened by a member of the BIRHC Board; what she said was that "a prominent member of our community said that 'the board is going to make Wendy's rent so high that she won't be able to afford to have a space in the new building.'"



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Thanks from PABI

The Preservation Association of Beaver Island wishes to extend a heart-filled thank you to the entire Island community for caring and sharing the events we've sponsored so far this year.

Beginning with the fun and puzzling Road Rally, held May 4th and based on Phil Hoffman's wonderful Outhouse poster, we appreciate the Shamrock and Nina's for providing a starting and ending place. Of course the sponsors helped make the day financially rewarding as well. Great job, Beth Ann and Joan.

Our first annual Summer Solstice Sunrise Breakfast was held next, on June 21st. Those who provided dishes and/or participated were a true joy. Over 68 attended, and a leisurely time was shared by all.

Late July saw another first, our Goofy Golf Outing. Many thanks to the Works family for allowing us to host the event, and special thanks to Lisa and Shipwreck Shirts for the great shirts and awards. The six teams vying for prizes had a great time adapting to the strange "rules" of the tournament.

The 2nd annual Sunset Picnic held the 3rd Sunday of August was again a very special evening. Gratitude from us to Barry, Rich, and L. D. for the music,

Ric R for the Chapagne Toast, Skip, Joan, Bob B, and Bob W for the food prep, and Island Air (Paul and Angel) for use of the tables and chairs. More than 70 watched the breathtaking sunset as the evening drew to a close.

Our 50/50 drawing was held at 5:00 p.m. on Labor Day on the BIBCo dock. McDonough's Market, Shipwreck Shirts, and Montage sold tickets for us, as did interested community members and the Board. Joan was the top ticket seller and Skip was second. It was a rewarding experience because half of the \$4,480 raised was won by my husband, whose ticket (1 of 2 purchased) was pulled out of the pot by a young girl prior to boarding the boat. Special thanks to Doris Larson for a wonderful sign she painted about the raffle, and Bob B for building the frame and erecting the sign.

Accolades to Judy and Jack for encouraging our committee to attempt fresh approaches to provide functions which are socially and financially successful. They both work physically hard to help make the events enjoyable.

The Beaver Island community seems to enjoy getting together to meet and greet friends, renew acquaintances, and make new friends. Our committee

strives to provide this type of event. Since many of you work so hard during the summer, special thanks for the efforts you make to join in our activities.

Don't forget, on Saturday of Thanksgiving weekend (Nov. 29) PABI will sponsor a Casino Night and Auction at Holy Cross Hall. Look for details elsewhere in this issue.

Dates for next year are: Road Rally, May 2nd; Sunrise Breakfast, June 19th; Goofy Golf, late July; Sunset Picnic, August 15th; and the 50/50, September 6th. We look forward to seeing you during 2004.
—Sue Welke

Calendar of Events

- Oct. 1 St. James Township Meeting, 8:00 p.m.
- Oct. 4 Island Boodle, 10:00 a.m.
Bite of Beaver Island, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. at the Hall
The New Third Coast Band performs at the Shamrock Partnership Project, Peaine Twp. Hall, 12:30 - 2:30
- Oct. 7 Peaine Township Meeting
- Oct. 8 School Board Meeting
- Oct. 13 BIHS Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

Also get ready for the Shamrock's Halloween Party!

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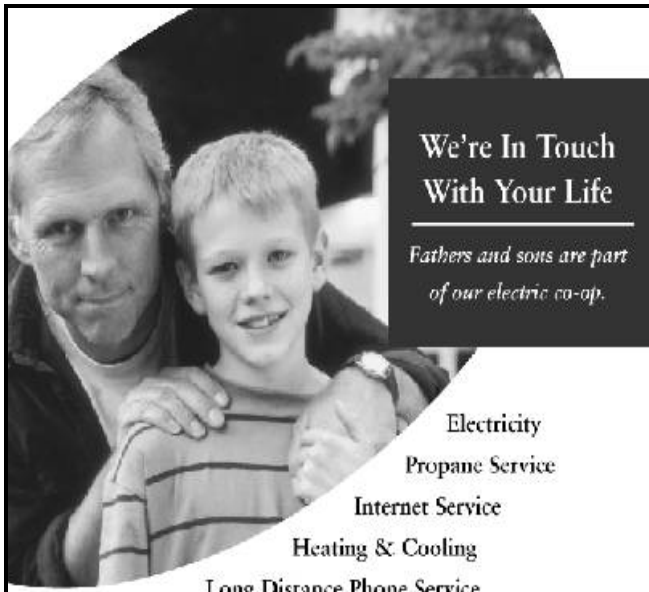
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A Good Time at Dannyville

On August 22nd the little village built by Dan Burton off the West Side Road saw its first extensive activity: an outdoor concert. The jazz/rock/bluegrass band *Detroit Simplicity*, with the help of master musician Paul Niehaus and Head Farmer Bayard Kurth, kept the party going until 2:30 a.m., and the last campfire didn't go out until 4:00. People came and went throughout the evening, so nobody's sure how many were there, but the midnight head count reached seventy-seven.

People generally enjoyed hunkering down with their BYO imbibables on a blanket under the towering hardwoods and a canopy of stars. Several attendees remarked that something like this had not happened here since the Flat Tail Fests that petered out over 20 years ago—but this was better, with more energy and joy. Some people camped out in tents, while others occupied the four small craftsman houses Danny has built here and there on his ten acres. Despite its growing proximity, no one was terribly afraid of being squished by Mars.

Mary Blocksma to hold Workshop

Good news for writers who haven't yet broken out: Mary Blocksma will hold a writer's workshop at the Brothers' Place next summer. Not only will she impart the techniques that have made her own books so successful, but she will also pass along what she's learned during her recent adventure in self-publishing. Watch for a release of times and dates.

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A Wedding on the Hill

August 14th was a beautiful warm day for the wedding of Sharon Malloy and Dale Scamehorn on the lawn at Harbor View II, where the couple met three years ago. Sharon is the daughter of the late Austin and Leona Malloy of Grand Rapids and the granddaughter of John Buffalo Malloy and Bridget Boyle Malloy of Beaver Island. Dale is the son of Walter and Margaret Scamehorn of White Cloud.

Sharon served as a Dominican Nun from 1959 until 1974. On August 3rd she retired from the Pine Rest Hospital in Grand Rapids after several years of nursing. Several Island relatives and friends took part in the ceremony and the reception that followed. The happy couple will divide their time between Alabama and Michigan, and plan to be back on the Island for cross-country skiing this winter.

Celebrities... on Beaver Island?

The rumor on the street this summer was that singer Madonna visited Deerwood Lodge for a day. Jon and Sally Fogg, Deerwood's Owners, would neither confirm nor deny the rumor because they "respect the privacy of all their guests." We always enjoy reading David Broder's column, and sure enough, Madonna's day visit to Beaver Island made it all the way into the Washington Post. Other sightings on the Island included Tim Allen, and some were speculating that the yacht on the back cover belonged to none other than Rockin' Ringo Starr.



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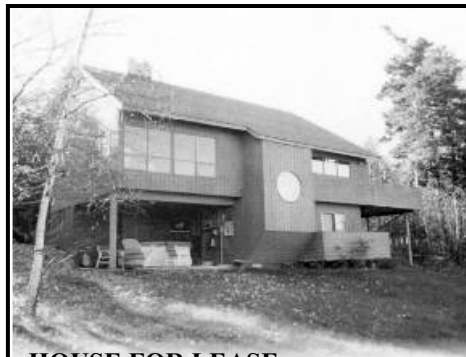


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RENTAL ATTRACTION ON FONT LAKE: 3-4 BR, 2 BA home, fully furnished with all the amenities. Sleeps 7. Beautiful view of lake and sunrises. New owners of this high-demand rental are taking reservations now, \$750/week. Off season rates available. Call Helena Webster (734) 730-8918 today; email hwebster18@yahoo.com



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BEACHFRONT HOUSE FOR RENT - Exciting cottage with view of High Island from large deck. Open floor plan, huge windows on extremely private beach. 2 BRs with 2 full beds + loft with 2 twins. 1½ baths, TV/VCR, W/D, microwave, gas grill, all amenities.

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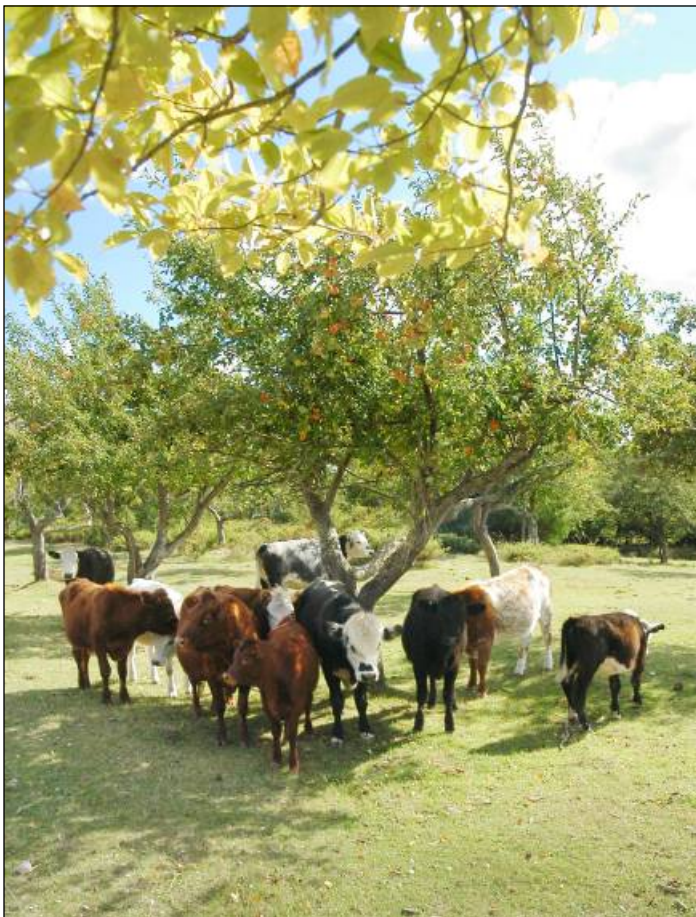
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