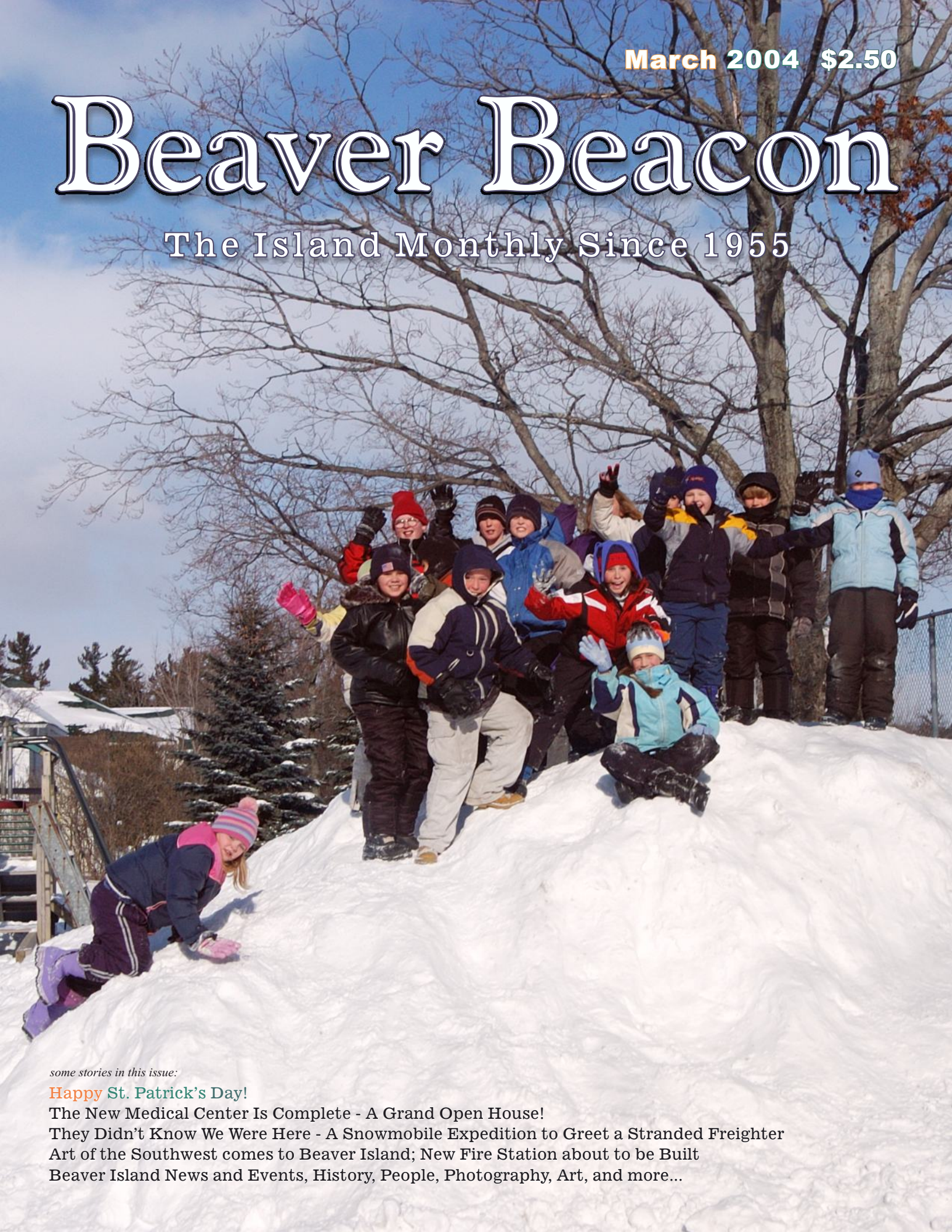


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# Beaver Beacon

The Island Monthly Since 1955



*some stories in this issue:*

**Happy St. Patrick's Day!**

The New Medical Center Is Complete - A Grand Open House!

They Didn't Know We Were Here - A Snowmobile Expedition to Greet a Stranded Freighter

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# Contents

March 2004

News from the Township Boards .....	4.
Beaver Island Internet Meeting with TransWorld / Great Lakes Energy .....	4.
Letters to the Editor: Will Islander's interests be represented in Master Plan ....	7.
A Grand, Grand Opening! An Open House at the new Health Center .....	8.
A Report from the Grand Rapids Party .....	13.
PABI Attempts to Satisfy Parking without Compromising Site Design .....	13.
Gavin West Honored .....	14.
Donations Start for Our School .....	15.
The Roast is On; Dems Caucus at the Rose Garden .....	16.
The Carisle Boathouse Comes Down .....	17.
They Didn't Know We Were Here - Visiting a Freighter by Snowmobile .....	18.
New Fire Station about to be Built .....	22.
On This Date .....	24.
Art of the Southwest comes to Beaver Island .....	28.
One Hundred Years Ago .....	30.

The *Beaver Beacon* welcomes Island Stories, Articles and Letters to the Editor and would like to thank all those who call and e-mail with news and events.

## Beaver Beacon

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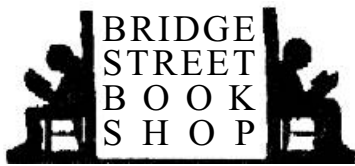
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## News from the Townships

### St. James Township 2-4-04

On February 4<sup>th</sup>, the St. James Township Board, with three members seated in front of an audience of ten, set a record for brevity of a regular meeting: 8 minutes.

The Board decided not to adjust its salary structure (\$12k for the Supervisor and Treasurer, \$13k for the Clerk, and \$3.5k for Trustees.) Marilyn Damstra was reappointed to the Planning Commission, and Harold Lounsberry was chosen to replace Bill McDonough, who resigned. Harold and Lois Williams asked to be allowed to groom the ski trail, which was granted. The Board of Review was set for March 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. Supervisor Don Vyse reported that the Parks Department wanted more information about our plans for the Whiskey Point Light. He said the DNR had granted the variance requests for the Yacht Dock improvements, so it would not have to be redesigned. He hoped bids would be solicited in March so the facility's seasonal opening would not have to be postponed.

### A Meeting with TransWorld – Our Island Internet Provider

After the February 4<sup>th</sup> St. James Board meeting, two representatives of TransWorld Network, Renee Arteaga and Steve Weaver, the team who convinced BIIP to choose GLE a year and a half ago, addressed a group of people who were concerned about our Internet service. Renee explained that GLE had partnered with Cherryland OnLine

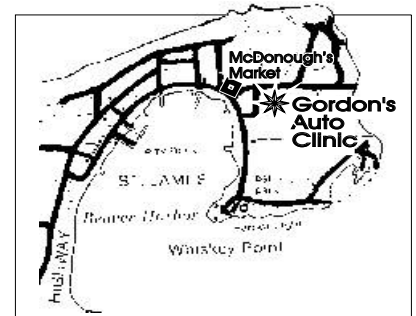
(a Traverse City provider), but they had grown tired of the business and decided to sell it. The partners received inquiries from a number of suitors (including a group of GLE/COL employees), but when the maintenance responsibilities were explained, all but a few backed away. The criteria used to select the purchaser was not simply the highest bid but an examination of the companies' appropriateness, history, and commitment. Florida's TransWorld Network, which specializes in providing long distance and Internet service for small communities, was chosen—with GLE entering into a guiding relationship.

Steve talked about the upgrade he had installed earlier that day to try and resolve dialup connection issues for folks who had called them with problems. A Cisco V.92-compatible router replaced the previous V.90 Lucent router which had worked very well for most Island residents while a few had a difficult time either connecting or staying connected. The Cisco equipment will also allow for advanced monitoring so it will, in theory, be easier to track future problems. In response to questions, he said most other issues were due to "the condition of a particular phone line or possible conflicts with software," especially low-quality software or winmodems. Distance per se was not much of a factor.

Steve thought everything had gone well, but the following day, ten to twelve new people (out of the current 326 Beaver Island Internet customers)

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who had been able to maintain a steady connection now found they had compatibility problems with the new dialup hardware. As we go to press, Renee says, "We have a *temporary* fix for this compatibility issue," which involves a drop in connection speed for the dozen or so folks affected, "but we know this is not the final answer to the problem. We have been in constant contact with Cisco. And as soon as we have a fix, we will contact all residents who have called us with a problem and walk them through the steps to get their connection speed back up to where it should be."

Steve also created a special address (helpBIIP@gtlakes.com) for complaints and concerns that are not resolved by the normal support (1-888-873-9212 or support@gtlakes.com). Email response time in late February was under 30 minutes so hopefully there won't be any great need for the new address, but it's good to know someone is there to listen. In response to some frustration voiced regarding the lack of a quick fix for the new dialup issue, Renee reiterated "I can assure Island residents that nothing could be further from the truth than 'tech support from afar does not know or care about us.' TWN takes great pride in the way they take care of their partnering Co-Ops' customers."

Finally at the meeting, Renee spent time describing her vision of expanded future capabilities. New technology for broadband should allow users to be serviced by a tower 2 miles away but not in sight (NLOS) and from up to 9 miles

away but within sight. This would conform to Governor Granholm's hope to have broadband everywhere by 2007. She said Shari Joles (GLE) was energetic and motivated; she thought that if 20 people (the more, the better) would commit to pay a half-price installation charge of \$500 (which might be payable over 12 months and is slightly less than satellite equipment) and a monthly fee of \$40 (about two thirds the monthly cost of satellite), and if the right location for an antenna could be found, we could move towards the goal of making true always-on broadband available on much of Beaver Island. Such a system would improve everyone's Internet experience by leaps and bounds. A survey is being planned that will be e-mailed to users to help TWN gauge Island needs. If all goes well, enough people will express interest in a reliable, fast, always-on Internet solution to get the project moving forward.

#### Peaine Township 2-11-04

On February 11<sup>th</sup> the Peaine Township Board hoped to break the recently-set record by St. James of squeezing an entire meeting into eight minutes, but didn't come close.

The meeting got off to a quick start, though, with a decision to raise salaries by 2% to reflect the increased cost of living. Tim Dwyer was chosen to replace Dave Duda, who had resigned from the Planning Commission, and a public informational meeting about the new Fire Hall was announced for 2-18.

*Continued on page 6.*

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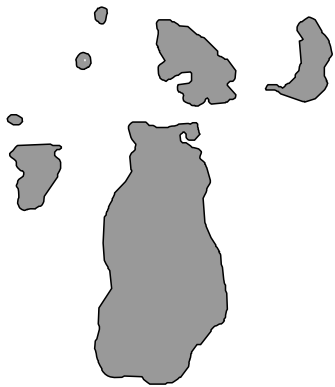
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### *Township News, continued from page 5.*

Chris Blough, the Charlevoix County GIS Coordinator, announced a free seminar to demonstrate the uses to which the new, detailed aerial photographs of Beaver can be put—and a series of monthly training sessions for Township representatives. The photos are to be completed by the coming fall. Also, Peaine received news that it was being sued—a technicality required for the legal abandoning of the unbuilt extension of Main Street, a prerequisite for the new parking lot. Don Vyse explained the need for this from the audience.

Two brief reports were delivered, by Tina Morgan and Judy Lanier. Judy said the Planning Commission was working on By-laws, and after a week of handling cases would soon return to its Master Planning. Tina explained that her ongoing exploration of the legal requirements for collecting past due personal property taxes had produced information that retroactive interest was not appropriate for periods earlier than 2002, but she was required to preserve the rightfulness of the procedure for collecting by following the mandated steps, including possible property seizure, from this point forward.

A sequence of letters was read and discussed. One set involved a notice by

Judy Lanier that she felt the Planning Commission has been remiss in two areas. The first was establishing a detailed budget for its work that anticipated the costs related to its work, particularly for the ongoing Master Planning: meeting costs, secretarial and legal expenses, travel and per diem costs, consultant charges, and costs of supplies and duplication. The second was an alert that issues have sometimes become so heated that good meeting decorum and protocol have not always been observed.

Two people in the audience criticized the handling of overdue personal property tax collection. One felt that a "jeopardy assessment affidavit"—a kind of lien—had been improperly filed, and said it had interfered with a potential real estate transaction that would have cleared the debt. He also complained that his personal property tax had dramatically increased over the past six years even though no new equipment had been bought. The other took issue with remarks he felt had tarnished his reputation, over a debt of under a hundred dollars he felt had not been initially communicated to him. This led to a discussion of proper privacy, an apology, and an admission that some statements made had been in poor taste.



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Letters to the Editor:

## Beaver Island's Master Plan

Beaver Island needs a Master Plan to coordinate zoning ordinances and allow for orderly development consistent with how year-around and seasonal residents envision the Island in the future. A starting point was to be a survey developed by the Peaine Planning Commission. The Peaine Township Board took issue with some of the questions, which asked for input on issues such as whether the Island should remain one township or two, and discarded the whole survey. Now the township has engaged Gosling Czubak at taxpayer expense to develop a master plan without adequate taxpayer input.

Beaver Island is our island. The questions developed by the Planning Commission utilized Island input from focus groups of 135 property owners, and reflected Island concerns about growth. We are concerned that a survey developed by Gosling Czubak will

not be Island-specific enough and will not produce the results we need for a clear vision of our future.

We understand that Gosling Czubak proposes three options for the development of the Master Plan. We Islanders, both seasonal and year-around, need to have specific input into our Master Plan. We should not be asked to choose door #1, #2, or #3. We feel the Township Board is failing their responsibility to us, the residents and taxpayers of Beaver Island.

At a minimum Gosling Czubak should incorporate many of the questions suggested by the Planning Commission's proposed survey. We should have input into the various Master Plan options through focus groups or public meetings before we are called to adopt it. We need to be assured that Peaine Township officials value not just our tax dollars but our vision as well. — Pam Grassmick

## Talent Show Moved Up

Those who remember last year's many fine performances should mark their calendar for March 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. Word on the street?

Come early for a seat.

## Drew MacArthur Lowell

Heidi (Bearss) and Arthur Lowell, along with Jonathan and MiKayla, announce the birth of Drew MacArthur Lowell February 16, 2004 at 8 lbs 10 oz. Grandparents are John & Carole Bearss.



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## A Grand Grand Opening!

On Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, the BIRHC opened the doors of our new Health Center for public inspection, and over two hundred people came in, took one of the tours conducted by the Board and staff, and shared their reaction with their friends: a truly magnificent new facility and a very well built building. Nobody could avoid a big smile.

To give visitors the full experience, the only door through which entry was permitted led into the lobby, a wonderful room with a vaulted, Island cedar ceiling, with the receptionist's curved desk in one corner. In the opposite corner two notebooks were filled with pictures and newspaper clippings that

detailed the long and frequently strange story that led to this day.

Since its conception the Medical Center has had financial problems. Even when everything seemed fine from the outside, the wolf was howling at the door. At various times donations and grants and allotments were received, garnered either through luck or, more common, month after month of hard work. But no matter how much was appropriated, it was never enough to provide a cushion.

People who focus on our recent loss of annual funding may not realize that it had happened before—such as in 1991, when an annual payment of \$58,000

from the state was lost. The constancy of a shortfall finally led to an expanded Board dedicating itself to getting on top of the situation, once and for all. No doubt if they had known the degree of the problem, they might not have volunteered. But they soon found out, and to their credit they bit the bullet instead of backing away.

Learning that sympathy in Lansing had diminished for what was perceived to be an outmoded and almost obsolete facility, they systematically investigated our shortcomings, asking both residents and visitors, on one hand, and outside experts, on the other, what we should have. The answer, when it







*EMS and BIRHC celebrate grants from the Grand Traverse Bay Tribe*

appeared after years of surveys and conversations, was so daunting that many would have abandoned their efforts. But the Board dug in its heels and, to everyone's amazement, seemed to obtain, along with Mackinac Island, a large grant.

Just as we were about to toast our lucky star, though, our part of the grant was quashed and we were back to ground zero. The situation was bleak, and our energy dissipated. But once again the Board held firm, gritted its teeth, and returned to the quest, not stopping to take a breath until, with much help from Bill McDonough and several others, it procured a \$1,500,000 grant

*and had the money in the bank.*

Then the real work began: interviewing architects, acquiring free land, selecting a builder, fine-tuning all the myriad details, and figuring out how to transform a patched-together system that had been receiving increasing criticism for its limitations into one fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> century, one which would serve our needs and make us all proud. Some outside observers scoffed that it simply could not be done—anywhere, but particularly here, where everything seems more difficult. But Sunday dismissed the doubters once and for all: this building reaffirms Beaver Island's long-cherished motto, “Yes we can!”

Certainly much work remains to be done: adding medical personnel, fine-tuning new systems, improving relationships with outside sources of help, and acquiring funds to guarantee its long-term operation. But the way the Board withstood the frustrations of a prolonged baptism under fire demonstrates that while we don't yet have all the pieces of the ongoing health care puzzle in place, the best possible team for obtaining them is on the job. This fine building, suited for the future we hope to attain as well as for the present, is a shining testament to how much they have already accomplished. Thanks go to all who helped bring this about.



## BIRHC Board Thanks those who Helped with Move

The BIRHC Board wishes to thank all those who made our recent move to the new building go so smoothly with no interruption of services. First, thanks go to our wonderful, hardworking staff who planned the move carefully and physically moved 75% of the items themselves over a period of two weeks. Thanks as well to the willing crew that did the heavy lifting, includ-

ing thrusting a refrigerator out a window. This great group included Bud, Adam and Nathan Martin, Jim and Karen Wojan, John Matela and Bill McDonough. Final thanks to Dalwhinnie for providing a delicious lunch to staff and helpers on the day of the move. Things couldn't have gone better. Thanks everyone!

— Connie Wojan, BIRHC President

## First Patient!

At 1:30 p.m. on January 28<sup>th</sup> the BIRHC admitted its first patients, Dr. Phil and E. B. Lange. After a thorough physical administered by care provider Sue Solle, during which the local media took several pictures and commented about the size and sheen of the new instruments, the Langes were mildly admonished for a life of hijinks and sent home.

## BIRHC receives Grant from Grand Traverse Band

Late in January the BIRHC received a \$25,000 check in response to a grant request submitted in December of 2003 to the Grand Traverse Band of Chippewa and Ottawa Indians. The BIRHC will use its funding to pay for relocating x-ray equipment to its new facility (by professional movers who

charged around \$5,000) as well as purchasing essential safety-related x-ray equipment and equipment for the provision of health education and prevention programs.

This \$25,000 will have an immediate positive impact on the health and safety of the entire Beaver Island

community. The staff and board of directors of the BIRHC could not be more appreciative to the Grand Traverse Band for their funding. We are also very grateful to both Township Boards and members of the Grand Traverse Band who reside on the Island for having supported our application.

## EMS Receives Grant

BIEMS is very happy to announce that it has received funding from the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians. The grant amount of \$25,000 will go a long way toward purchasing the required module and equipment for an air ambulance. BIEMS wishes to publicly thank this

group of caring individuals from the Grand Traverse Band who will help us accomplish a needed service for the residents of and visitors to Beaver Island. Thank you very much Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians with special thanks to the members who live here on Beaver

Island for their help in getting this grant.

BIEMS is requesting that any readers that wish to help accomplish this goal, please send their donations, no matter how big or how small. Please make check payable to St. James Township-BIEMS, and mail to BIEMS, P.O. Box 192, Beaver Island, MI 49782.

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## Letters to the Editor: To the BIRHC Board

The CCG would like to congratulate you on obtaining the grant from the Chippewa and Ottawa Indian Tribe. This was a very fine effort and a positive indication of future financial stability for the BIRHC. Again, both the Board and Tribe need to receive recognition and appreciation for this fine accomplishment. Connie, if you could provide the contact person and address for the Tribe, the CCG would like to send a letter of sincere appreciation to them.

The CCG would also like to express appreciation for the diligence of the Board in coming to what appears to be a long-term contract with Dr. White. A process that was not easy for either party, but one that will be in the best interest of all involved, especially the Island community. It appears that in the end your best counsel came from the Board's attorney. We are glad that you acted upon that advice as opposed to other counsel that may have created a possible conflict of interest.

As a representative of the CCG, I have been contacted by individuals inquiring about the future position of Director or Administrator for the BIRHC. As a result, I would like to formally request information about the process and procedure for appointing someone to this position. It is a very key position to the BIRHC and the community. It is important that the selection process be open and visible to the public. It is recognized that the ultimate decision is the Board's. The goal should be to select the best qualified candidate from all those who express an interest. To that end, the CCG recommends that the BIRHC publish in the media and trade journals the following as public information:

• Post the position as available  
• Publish the position description and qualifications  
• Compensation range and benefits  
• Invite all qualified candidates to apply  
• Describe the interview and selection process, including who will conduct the interview, the time frame, and who will have the final decision responsibility

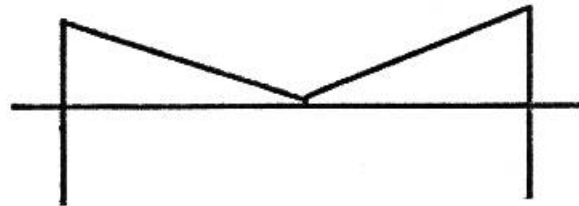
The concern that has been expressed is that it has been implied at Board Meetings that a specific individual was hired and is being groomed for this position. If this is the case, we would advise the Board to acknowledge that fact publicly to clarify its intentions. However, our primary recommendation is that this position be filled through a process that is open to all qualified candidates, both internal and external, via the process outlined above.

The CCG would appreciate any comments the Board would like to offer in response on this important matter. The CCG is encouraged and appreciative of the progress that the Board is making on behalf of the BIRHC and the community.

– Kirk D. McBride

## Sock Hop Set

The AmVets and Ladies' Auxiliary, Post 46, has scheduled the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Sock Hop for Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, at the Parish Hall. Twenty-five year professional entertainer Joe Nagabra will play tunes from the 50s and 60s. There'll be a cash bar, snacks, a raffle, door prizes, and three dancing contests. So "get out your poodle skirts, saddle shoes, and cardigan sweaters," (or try your luck at the Resale Shop), and get ready to have a good time. The \$10 admission is for a very good cause.



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## Robert Palmer

Robert "Bucco" Palmer, 60, who'd been living in Ludington for the past 42 years, died January 31, 2004 at his home. He also owned his mother's house here, next to the school.

He spent three years in Frankfurt, Germany, as a member of the U.S. Army. He was an avid hunter and, like everyone else in his family, enjoyed playing and listening to old time music. He sailed on the Great Lakes for thirty-five years, most recently for Lake Michigan Carferry as a wheelsman.

Survivors include son Luke and daughter Tracy of Marquette; three grandchildren; special friend Janice Dunham of Ludington; five sisters, Virginia Palmer of Hayward, California, Evelyn (Tom) Oleksy and Roberta Palmer of Charlevoix, and Mary Ann Ferguston of Petoskey; and three brothers, Perry "Budger" and Edward Palmer of Beaver Island and Russell Palmer of Petoskey. Robert will be missed by his family and friends. He was predeceased by his parents, Clarence and Lorraine (Boyle) Palmer, and two sisters, Grace Nugent and Irene Henize.

He was cremated, with the ashes to be scattered from the car ferry. A memorial service will be held at a later date.

## Nature Preserve now Closed to Hunting

The Little Traverse Nature Conservancy has responded to an increase in game parts and whole carcasses left in public view on its property at Barney's Lake by closing the Preserve to hunting. Director Tom Bailey was saddened by having to take this step, but said that the Conservancy has opened much more land on Beaver Island to hunting than it has closed. He will soon post the Barney's Lake property, and urges the public to report any violations to him, the DNR, or the Deputy Sheriff.

## Conservation Easements

The Little Traverse Conservancy has accepted a request by the Beaver Island Partnership Project and will hold a workshop on Conservation Easements on June 22<sup>nd</sup> in conjunction with BIPOA.

## Grand Rapids Party

The Beaver Island Club of Grand Rapids held their 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Party Saturday February 14<sup>th</sup>. For the second year the party was held at The Hilton in Grand Rapids. Rooms were available at a reduced rate for those who did not wish to travel the same night. Approximately 85 rooms were booked which was considered a good turnout. Altogether, 235 attended the fun-filled event. The proceeds go to Beaver Island for whatever the need may be; past recipients have been the Fire Dept., Health Center, EMTs, Holy Cross Cemetery, Game Club, and many others! The parties were started 38 years ago with the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting held at Richie & Janet O'Donnell's. Some of the original members were Richie & Janet, Brian & Dee Gallagher, Glen Ricksgar, Pete & Pat Greene, Bob Delaney, Glen & Eleanor McDonough, Bob & Charlotte McDonough, Larry & Kay McDonough, Harold & Ester Delaney, and Marie Boyle. Their vision was to be able to give back to an Island and its people who have given so much to them.

Some of the members have since passed on; some have moved away; and some have retired. Two members have remained and have watched over the next generation as they've come into their own. Yet they still keep that same vision from 38 years ago; even though they've moved to Charlevoix, they have never missed a meeting, so a plaque for the appreciation for their generous time, support, and dedication was presented to Glen and Eleanor McDonough.

The members now are: Kevin (President) & Theresa McDonough, Ernie (VP) & Julie Martin, Diane O'Donnell (Treasurer) & David Westmaas, Danielle (Secretary) & Craig Petrak, Paul & Shirley Cole, Jim & Andrea Gallagher, Brian & Rose Cole, Caroline Rice, and Glen & Eleanor McDonough.



The band this year was the Beaver Island Band: Rich Scripps, his friend, Edward Palmer, Dan Gillespie, and Danny Johnson, and Hilary Palmer sang a few tunes.

Door Prizes came from: Beaver Beacon, Cary Concrete, Archipelago Builders, McDonough's Market, Stoney Acre Grill, The Station/Lake Sports, Shamrock, The Weathervane (Charlevoix), The Villager (Charlevoix), Bob and Catherine Tidmore (framed picture), Dee Gallagher (beautiful knitted afghan), Sally Koeze (hand-made blanket), and Brian Cole (framed picture). A Weekend Get-away was raffled off: Emerald Isle Hotel, breakfast at Dalwhinnie's, lunch at Stoney Acre Grill, Dinner at Nina's Restaurant, and two ferry tickets from the Beaver Island Boat Co.

Thank You to all who gave so generously to the door prizes & the weekend raffle!

The party this year raised a little over \$2,000. Thank You to all who gave so generously, and to those who put in so much time! — Diane McDonough

## Harvey King

Harvey Gerald King, 89, passed away February 19, 2004. He was the son of Harvey & Nettie (Davis) King. He married Emma Jean Kuhart and lived most of his life in the Fremont, Michigan, area, owning and operating several businesses: the Kim Bark Inn, Sanitary Cleaners, and the Tastee Freeze. He also worked at Gerber Products Company. He spent many enjoyable years on Beaver Island working with Island Airways.

Harvey was a member of the Moose Lodge. He will be sadly missed by his wife of 67 years, Emma, his daughter, Patricia Robins, and his son Mike (Mary) King. He was preceded in death by his daughter, Mary Ellen Welke. He also leaves 4 grandsons, Kevin (Kathy) Robins, Mark (Sue) Robins, John (friend, Amy) Robins, Christopher (Melissa) Welke, 6 great grandchildren, and 2 great, great grandchildren. He also leaves a sister, Eleanor.

Cremation has taken place. At his request there will be no service.

## PABI tried to Improve Parking

On February 24<sup>th</sup> the Preservation Association was given a special meeting of the St. James Township Planning Commission so it could propose a modification of the parking plan that had been approved in January. That plan called for 15 on-site spaces plus at least 8 in a lot it proposed to create in conjunction with the Township. But the Township lacked the funds, so another partner had to be found to purchase, clear, and gravel a lot near the Christian Church.

During this period, PABI decided its approved plan called for the placement of excessive amounts of asphalt around the Community House, and proposed that it be allowed to reduce the on-site spaces to 6 (5 for staff, plus 1 barrier-free) and eliminate the looping driveway—and expand its off-site lot to handle all non-staff parking. It wanted to leave the back and side natural, but landscaped, and use pavers instead of asphalt for the staff parking spaces. These would permit water run-off

through the loose joints, reducing the size of the required run-off catch basin, and would allow the theater part of the building to be expanded, depthwise, by, for example, 8'. Theater and building consultants were due the following week.

PABI argued that this plan had four advantages: cost, aesthetics, environmental, and safety—this resulting from less traffic turning in to look for a parking place and then pulling back out when one wasn't free. One Planning Commission member agreed, but two others did not, saying that people might still drive in to look for parking, and some people might not be able to, or want to, look for the lot. Another problem was that those who parked there would have to walk in the street, either down Frankie Lane or the Donegal Bay Road, to reach the Community House. New member Harold Lounsberry was off-Island, so the two nay votes sank this proposal. A modification may be presented again.



## Gavin West Honored

Lt. Gavin West, son of Beaver Island's Elaine and Steve and the Commanding Officer of the 1/6 Scout Sniper Platoon, recently received his 2<sup>nd</sup> Navy/Marine Corps Achievement



Medal from the commander of Battalion Landing Team 1/6 for his outstanding performance during the unit's recently completed special operations capable exercise.

The grandson of Helen Pike finished school on Beaver Island, and worked at McDonough's Market. He and wife Leasha now reside in

## And the Winner Is....

John Works Jr., of a new media center awarded by TDS Telecom on January 29<sup>th</sup> in a raffle in which customers were given chances based on their use of TDS long distance. "This is gravy," John said as TDS agent Rick

Marine air ground force, it can engage enemy forces within days or even hours of receiving orders.

Recently it left the United States, probably to be assigned to Central Command for special operations service. Gavin's guess is that he'll be part of a spring offensive in Afghanistan.

Bucholtz presented his prize. "The real bonus is TDS service. A few months ago I got hit with one of those scams going around, so I called TDS. They took care of it—no problem. That kind of service is worth its weight in gold."

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His unit is a special multi-element force deployed aboard several unique naval vessels and supported by Navy surface combat ships and a submarine. With a fully-integrated

## CCC Meeting Synopsis

The Charlevoix County Board of Commissioners met at 7:00 p.m. on **January 28, 2004** in Charlevoix. All Commissioners were present.

Motion approved Resolution #04-003, Computer Support System with CTL Systems for the remainder of the calendar year. Commissioners Frykberg and Jason voting no.

An IT Committee was formed. The Committee will include Commissioner Snyder as chair, Commissioner Frykberg and representatives from each department.

Minutes of the January 14, 2004 meeting were approved by consensus.

Motion approved Resolution #04-004, Park Re-Organization, and appointed a committee for this purpose.

Appointed to the Parks Committee were Valerie Snyder, Dennis Jason, Shirley Roloff, Jane Brannon, Caroline Kobylczak, Ralph Harmon and Dave Seeley. Motion adjourned the meeting.

The Charlevoix County Board of Commissioners met at 3:20 p.m. on **February 11, 2004** in Charlevoix. Commissioners Frykberg and Jason were absent.

Minutes of the January 28, 2004

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meeting stood approved as presented.

Motion approved Resolution #04-005, Grandvue Operating Transfer.

Motion approved Resolution #04-006, Non-Skilled Nursing Care, and authorized the Chairman to sign said agreement. Motion approved Resolution #04-007, Senior Companion Program, and authorized the Chairman to sign said Memorandum of Understanding. Motion approved Resolution #04-008, 2003 Annual Investment Report.

Motion approved Resolution #04-009, Building Inspection Scanning System purchase. Motion approved Resolution #04-010, Computer Security as recommended by the Building & Grounds Committee. Motion approved Resolution #04-011, Household Hazardous Waste Contract and authorized the Chairman to sign said contract.

Motion adjourned the meeting.

## Joke-of-the-Day Club

Reacting to an occasional dour winter face, Ted and Pam Nicholas are e-mailing a few witty one-liners on many mornings. To get on their list, write them at [nicholas@gtlakes.com](mailto:nicholas@gtlakes.com)

Teacher Beth Croswhite, Student Council Member Kerrie Gillespie, and School Board Member Linda McDonough hold a check for \$1,000.00 to be contributed to the recently established Beaver Island Community School's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Scholarship Fund. The \$1,000.00 donation from students, staff and board members reflects everyone's commitment to the growth of this fund to benefit students who meet the school's graduate profile.



In addition to this donation to the scholarship fund, another \$1,200.00 is already in the principal account and \$400.00 has been pledged to be paid out to a 2004 graduate! The fund has been established in the

Charlevoix County Community Foundation, and donations to the fund are tax deductible.

For more information, contact the Community Foundation at (231) 536-2440 or the Beaver Island Community School at (231) 448-2744.

## Ex-Island Beauty Bares All

Based on the success of the British film *Calendar Girls*, several Traverse City charities have gone in together on a similar project: a calendar featuring 13 locally important middle-aged women in the buff—including singer/songwriter Claudia Schmidt. The women chosen were "influential,

exotic, anarchic, bawdy, exuberant, and totally unstoppable." They posed in private sessions with artist Sue Brighthouse, each holding something of personal significance. The idea was that these tasteful sketches would celebrate rather than exploit women. The calendar is available at Horizon Books.



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### Parcel II on the North Arm of Lake Geneserath

Approximately 1.1-acre parcel with 164' of lake frontage on the north side of Hemlock Point (recently a/k/a Whitetail Point) with a nice mixture of hardwoods and conifer trees (hemlocks and many large pines). Because the private land on the north side of the north arm of Lake Geneserath is now all State land, you will never see anything but natural shoreline on the opposite side of Lake G. from this building site. Perfect spot for someone who wants a log cabin with a dock out front that would remind you of being *On Golden Pond*. (There is a log cabin on a parcel east of Parcel II that is a good example of what can be done.) This lot would make a nice retirement homesite or second homesite or could be used for just a fishing cabin and/or dock on a good fishing lake. A wetlands permit will be obtained for a boardwalk (first part of the dock) from the edge of the building area to the edge of the water. The view of the lake from the building site on the adjacent lot has recently been cleared; with clearing this lot would have a tremendous view. This is also an absolutely perfect location for winter sports enthusiasts; snowmobile, snowshoe or cross-country ski right out your front door on solid, safe ice and go on miles of trails through State land immediately east, west or north of this site. Ask for a survey copy and location map from the Ed Wojan Realty office. The access to this lot is Hemlock Point Road off East Side Drive - just about 1000 feet before the Cable's Creek road culvert. **\$65,000.**

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## One that Didn't Get Away

On January 7<sup>th</sup> long-time "smeller of the fish" Melvin Napont walked out on the ice from Bud Martin's dock to a spot he had a hunch would be good, chopped the fresh ice out of a hole he had previously augured, and tested his luck. Needless to say, it passed once again with flying colors as he hooked and pulled in a 39 inch, 21 pound northern pike.

## The Roast is On

The Beaver Island Fire Department has selected the target for its 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebrity Roast on Memorial Weekend: Beaver Island's "Norwegian Queen," Skip McDonough. So dig out and brush up your stories about her many exploits, and if they're fit to tell, call Dawn Marsh (448-2910) to get on the speaker's list.



## Dems Caucus at the Rose Garden

When Mary Scholl called Charlevoix to find out where Beaver Islanders could vote in the Democratic Primary of February 7<sup>th</sup>, she was told that no place had been arranged because "everyone knows there aren't any Democrats on Beaver." As a life-long Democrat, Mary knew this wasn't true, and decided to do something about it. After much work she had her home declared the official caucus site, and received ballots and other materials, such as the forms to use by those wanting to attend the National Convention.

No one knew how many people could be mustered in this Republican stronghold. Two? Ten? As it turned out when the appointed day began, eleven people were there the moment Mary opened her door, and more kept coming. As usual, Mary maintained a friendly, open atmosphere in which



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## The Carlisle Boathouse Comes Down

Built by real estate developer and outdoorsman Rogers Carlisle during WW II, a structure that has filled several uses was pulled apart and hauled away by Beaver Gems on February 17<sup>th</sup> to make room for: a bigger boathouse. During its life it housed Rogers' yacht, and then became the site for the Cole Fish Market. Later it was remodeled into offices (Rich Gillespie, Laura Esch) and stores (Tina's Tees and Shipwreck Shirts.)

## Chili Cook-Off – March 11<sup>th</sup>

Ready to warm up after a long winter? Don't miss the Chili Cook-Off March 11<sup>th</sup> at the Peaine Township Hall from 5:30 - 7:30. Judging will be from 5:00 - 5:30. For information, contact Diane McDonough at 448-2164.

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## They Didn't Know We Were Here



For two weeks sharp-eyed passengers at the north-facing windows on board Island Airways' flights to and from the Island saw some kind of ship caught in the grip of the ice about five miles north of Garden Island. When Bud Martin and Dave Schwartzfisher tooled over to Garden and Hog on snowmobiles, it became obvious: a big ship, broken down and possibly abandoned.

Back home, Bud called the Coast Guard, which told him it was the *Capt. Ralph Tucker*, the only large ship in the McKiel Tug and Barge Company's 40-vessel fleet. Bud got on his radio, reached the ship, and was given the ship's cell phone number. Calling back and saying he was on Beaver, Captain Bill Sullivan admitted he had not thought anyone lived on the Island. But

when Buddy explained that he wanted to hop back on his rig and zip out there, he extended a welcome to come aboard.

Not wanting to traverse the frozen surface by himself (the first 4 miles were very rough) he took a spin around the harbor to see who else might go. Ben and Eric Fogg and their friend Derek Rietman were up for the 20-mile round trip. Unfortunately the *Gemini* had







come through a half mile south of the *Tucker*, freeing the cakes chopped from the ice sheet by a resupply visit the previous week. Luckily they had frozen into a relatively stable bridge, but, even so, Buddy uncoiled his always-handly hundred-foot rope—the same one he used to pull Rich Gillespie out of a hole east of Hog three years before. The ship didn't look too imposing from a dis-

tance, but up close it loomed over them. Even climbing the ladder lowered over the side by First Mate Marvin Cooper was no easy task in the icy wind, nor was ascending to the fifth-level bridge.

The story they heard was of trouble developing in the dark that brought them to a halt as the Canadian ship hauled a load of brine from Manistee. By daylight they had diagnosed it as a broken

camshaft which led to the shutting down of the 440' ship's 5,300 hp engine. An ice breaker, the *Mackinac*, came to cut a channel for the delivery of supplies to 16 trapped men, who knew at the onset that this would not be a quick fix. When the new part was found, it was carried out over the lake in a sling hanging below a helicopter, and set down on the ice.

*Continued on page 20.*





***Ralph Tucker, Continued from page 19.***

Tests were conducted on February 8<sup>th</sup>, and on the morning of the 10<sup>th</sup> she followed the icebreaker *Mackinac* (at 8 knots!) under the Bridge on her way to Amherstburg, her Canadian home.

This was not the *Tucker's* only adventure. In 1974 her bow was ripped by ice, flooding the bow-thruster room

while she was out in the Atlantic. She went aground off Newfoundland in 1982. Eight years later she was battered by heavy seas while tied up at an island in the St. Lawrence; the damage was so bad she was almost not repaired. A month later a bilge fire at Halifax caused additional damage. Ready to go again, her name was changed from the *Imperial*

*Acadia* to the *Algoscotia*, a name it held for three years. The new owners named her for a long-time friend.

Life on the sea is tough on a ship, and the wear continued. In 2001 a turbocharger breakdown required her to be brought into port by two tugs. The next year she grounded near her home, forcing extensive repairs. A year ago







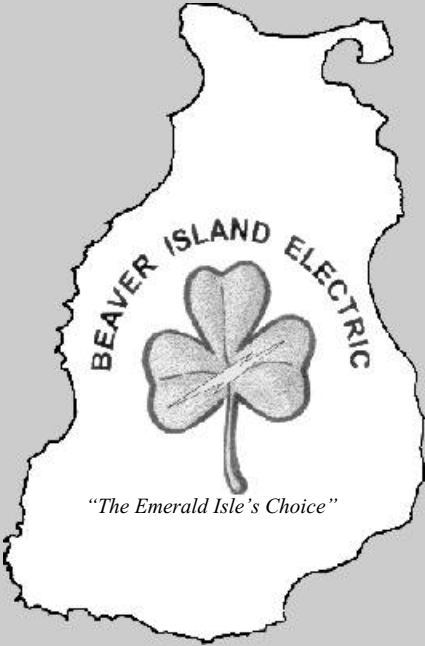
high winds pushed her away from the dock as she was unloading, but quick action prevented a spill. The next day, though, ice forced her aground.

These difficulties were all part of the job for the hard-working crew, who said she did a fine job of ramming through a foot of ice—but this was a foot and a half. The snowmobilers were also impressed

with her size and power—so much so that once they were back on Beaver, Buddy decided to go again. This time the adventurers took an overhead look first, so Ben and Derek flew their plane and Buddy took Eric up in his. Later that afternoon Buddy and Travis Martin, Jeff Mestelle, and Steve Crandall stopped at the *Tucker* and went on board on their

way to Naubinway. Before climbing back down to the sheet ice, they told the crew that if they ever got stuck again, they should let the Island know right away. “We’ll come out and get you, and ferry you to St. James,” they said. “We don’t really need an excuse to throw a party, but since you’d provide one, we’d make you the guests of honor.”





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## Dentist's Contract Resolved

On February 28<sup>th</sup> the BIRHC Board held a meeting at which important decisions were made—such as to outsource billing. But 30+ people had come to see Dr. White's contract resolved.

New BIRHC attorney Webb Martin and Wendy's brother/attorney Warren Widemeyer had negotiated a

10-page draft of a 5-year lease, calling for a "new facility charge" added to dental bills, after the 1<sup>st</sup> year, to cover utility costs (which might add a few dollars to each bill.) At first the Board was reluctant to go more than 2 years, but after much discussion the contract was approved, 7-4.

## New Fire Station about to be Built

On February 18<sup>th</sup> the public learned that the long-awaited Peaine Township Fire Hall is about to become a reality.

This began seven years ago with the creation of a task force to examine the need for a 2<sup>nd</sup> fire station. After many test runs to measure response times, the DNR was asked for 5 acres of State Land opposite the Campground in the spring of '98; other property at Lake Geneserath (donated by Don Cole) was deemed too far away. It refused, so the task force appealed. Again it was turned down, so the Island's heavy hitters (2 senators and 3 congressmen) went to bat. The DNR reconsidered and gave up the land.

At a joint meeting of both townships an Emergency Services Authority was created last spring, a body soon to have a 3-man board to supervise the Fire Department and the EMS—both of which will have vehicles at the new Fire Hall. An architect was hired, who helped with the immense amount of paperwork required: a study of the parcel's possible historic value, an environmental impact study, and a complete catalogue of its plants (done by CMU,

using its students, at no charge.)

The Island's wish list had to be pruned, but a substantial building was designed. The USDA awarded a \$70,000 grant, which incidentally required the townships to make all their other buildings handicap accessible (the Building Inspector made a list of upgrades, which included such things as changing 36 doorknobs to latches.) Working with an Island builder, the architect estimated the likely cost, which required another \$270,000. A bond was created and then purchased by the USDA, which wrote a 30-year mortgage for us at 4.88%. The annual \$17,400 payment will be made by both the Fire Department and the EMS.

The new Fire Hall will feature a drive-through insulated, steel-skinned 40' x 66' barn holding four vehicles, including an ambulance. It will be heated to 58° by a fuel-oil furnace. An attached wing will have a kitchen, bathrooms, and bunkhouse (where extra EMS or the Island's 2<sup>nd</sup> deputy could stay.) A training area and large buried water tanks are in the future plans.

Bids should be let soon.

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## Matches

People collect things. It might be old love letters tied with a ribbon, a rosebud pressed in a book, sheet music, or *New Yorker* covers, to name a few. I found a collection a few days ago stuffed in a glass gallon jug, now covered with dust and grime. The collection was matches. Books and box matches dating as far back as late 1960. Do you remember the Jim Croce song, *Time in a Bottle*? Well, I have time in a jar.

The largest of the book matches is 4 inches by 3½ inches. It has a Bavarian Winter Scene on the outside. Open it to find 20 flat wooden matches painted bright red with tips depicting candles. Across the matches in gold printing is "Season's Greetings". The matches are from Fritz Metzger's Old German Restaurant in Ann Arbor. I found humor in the printing on the back: 'made in Italy.'

The smallest box of matches is 1½ inches by ½ inch. The tiny wooden matches are in a box made from wood, 'made in Sweden' written on the box.

There is a theme throughout this collection and that theme is food (no doubt a little wine too.) From Montreal Canada to the sunny state of Florida to California and the Northwest and a lot of states in-between I must have eaten a lot of meals. Throw in Acapulco too.

Chicago was prominently represented because that was a favorite destination for shopping and eating. Matches from the Bismarck Hotel, L'Escargot, and the Kabuki Lounge were a reminder of those trips. The one that

made me smile was from The Berghoff the best of the wurst sandwiches and the rudest waiters.

California ranked high with a few memorable places in Beverly Hills, Santa Monica, and Westwood contributing to the collection—Jimmy's, AuChambertin, and the Mustache Café. A few books from the San Francisco area showed that I was not stuck in southern California.

Michigan has its merits too and is well represented. Topinka's Country House in Detroit and the original Win Schuler's in Marshall. Twenty-five years in Muskegon lent a collection from old nightclubs and other establishments like the Century Club, Tohado, and The Breakwater. There is a book from the Castle in Grand Rapids, The Winter Inn in Greenville, and the Hatch on Lake Macatawa near Holland.

There were some flash hedonistic trips too—lunch in Montreal, a holiday in Acapulco. On an Amtrak cross-county trek I stopped in Denver. Final destination was Portland, Oregon where I picked up matches from Goose Hollow Inn, and the Rusty Pelican.

The piece de resistance, however, is the box of matches I prize the most. It is a sleek, slim box 2½ inches by ¼ inch with gold on white. On the front of the box is printed WINDOWS ON THE WORLD. On the back of the box is the address: 107<sup>th</sup> floor, NEW YORK WORLD TRADE CENTER.

— Lois Williams



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## On This Date

**Ten Years Ago** The *Beacon's* front page featured an article on the "sky-darkening flights of cormorants," claiming the 2,000 or so cormorants plying these waters ate, during their 200-day season, 500,000 pounds of fish. Editor Chuck Hooker printed a report by Mark Carrington, and obtained additional information from the DNR: "the cormorants are certainly decimating the salmon fingerlings being planted." Further, these predatory birds don't stop killing fish when they're full, but keep killing, for sport. Tom Weise at the DNR reported that they're endangered. However the US Fish and Wildlife station in Minneapolis said they were not endangered but were protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty. Asa Wright, also of the DNR, agreed that these birds were fish killers, but thought it was unlikely that a study would be done to determine their effect on sport fish. Ilene Kirsch at the F & W said they were being blamed for depleting the catfish farms along the Mississippi. She hoped a study could be done here, and guessed that our cormorants would turn out to have different feeding habits than had been commonly reported. The *Beacon* proposed to establish a mailing list of those interested in this problem, and of

pushing for answers to the unsolved problems.

The Wildlife Club made a plea for additional members to help it conduct three programs: restocking wild turkeys; planting walleye fingerlings; and sewing rye to provide food for our deer. The Chamber of Commerce bought, from Marvin's Gardens, 75 Canadian Harmony full size peach trees to resell for \$17 each.

The Girl Scout/Brownie cookie sale resulted in 393 boxes being sold.

A \$15,000 grant was received for barrier-free outhouses at Iron Ore Bay and the Bill Wagner Campground.

Peaine Township increased its Board salaries to \$7,200 for the Supervisor, Clerk, and Treasurer, and to \$2,400 for the trustees. St. James gave the Zoning Administrator a \$200 raise, and agreed to give the Chamber at least \$2,000.

A poem by Ray Murray, *Pisgah Beach Winter*, included these timeless lines:

"There is no sun; only a brightening of the sky to mark the day.

"The world is white.

"The raging wind off Indian Point raises plumes of snow along the beach, and drives the frenzied waves thunder-

ing against the shapeless, icy palisades that line the shore."

The Medical Center's Annual Report hoped its transformation to a Rural Health Center would give it "a financial advantage." It reported that the budget for the current year contained a deficit, but also expressed hope that this could be overcome with luck and hard work.

An invitation appeared for participating in the 8<sup>th</sup> annual Beaver Island Talent Show.

**Twenty Years Ago** The St. James Town Board voted to acquire, with Peaine, two lots flanking Iron Ore Creek to create a 20-acre area with 572' of frontage for the public. It also agreed to improve the north shore campground. It investigated hiring an attorney (Jeff VanTreese, the City Attorney for Charlevoix) for \$50/hour, and decided to—if we ever needed one.

The long-standing office of Constable was eliminated for St. James since the person holding it could not do much without acquiring special training.

The Fire Department Auxiliary was given permission to set up a Resale Shop in the basement of St. James Town Hall. It planned to have a drawing at the St. Patrick's Day party.

**Scene: Stoney Acre Grill. Snow is piled outside past the tops of the windows. Inside, St. Patrick relaxes before a steaming plate of Corned Beef and Cabbage. The door opens and a fierce giant covered in ice and rime enters.**

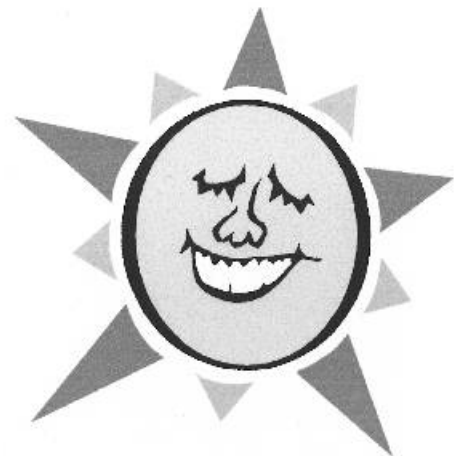
*Old Man Winter-* I'm Old Man Winter and I'm never letting go of this island!

*St Patrick-* Hey! Catch that door! Cheese and rice were ya raised in a barn?!

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The Civic Association postponed the Winter Games a week (to February 28<sup>th</sup>) because of the weather. Karl Heller won the muzzle-loaded competition. During the tug-of-war, just as each side dug in and prepared to pull with all their might, the rope snapped. After snowshoe and ski races a softball game was played—in snowshoes.

Barb Rakowski resigned as school principal.

Archie and Frances LaFreniere were honored by the Christian Brothers at Chicago's Bismark Hotel for lives exemplifying the ideals of Christian education. They were recognized for "their clarity, many kindnesses, and great affability to several generations of Brothers."

Floss Frank was thanked for an article about the diminishing beach access on Nantucket (of 70 miles of beach there, only 1 ½ was public) and her warning that we could be in the same boat if action wasn't taken soon.

The passing of C. Russell Pryce at age 84 was noted. A lifetime resident of Ann Arbor, he married Thelma LaFreniere in 1928. They spent many summers with their daughter Sally in the cottage on the harbor, the *Algolah*, built around the real ship's real pilot house.

**Thirty Years Ago** February's weather ranged from 7 below to 39 above, with over 15" of snowfall (making a total snowfall of 34".)

Sheldon Parker and Bill Welke continued to drop salt blocks from Bill's plane, including 4 on Garden and 1 on Hog. The Game Club, long wondering why perch can't be caught, got the DNR to approve a test netting under the ice, conducted by Paul Kenwabakise. The catch was a few Menominees, some whitefish, small pike, and some suckers—but no perch. Perry Gatliff caught some northerns with his tip-ups.

Frances LaFreniere gave everyone hope by spotting a robin on March 9<sup>th</sup>.

Passings noted included Charles Philip Gallagher, 91, who had moved from Beaver to Manistee and then Ludington. Born to Phil "Philippine" Gallagher and Mary Gillespie as the first of 13 children, he married Kitty Malloy, who gave him 8 children. Charles lived at Egg Lake, where he tended an orchard after working as a ship's fireman on our ferry. Between 1925 and 1928 he carried the mail across the ice with a team of horses. He had 20 grandchildren and 33 great grandchildren.

Paul and John Kenwabakise, along

with Buz Anderson, left the Coast Guard dock in the *Sunny Don* in mid-March, becoming the first boat from here to Charlevoix this year.

The Medical Auxiliary planned 3 summer benefit luncheons at the Circle M. Local artisans Robert Gillespie and Archie LaFreniere contributed items to be raffled at the Grand Rapids and Chicago parties to raise money for the Med Center. A special drive was being organized to pay for an addition.

Fifty-two people attended a Business Seminar held at the Circle M. Archie spoke for the BIBCO, saying plans to run out of Petoskey had to be abandoned. Vince Olach, manager of the Charlevoix Chamber, talked about how to lengthen the short season. Sue Calloway from the Michigan Tourist Council thought our Irish and Native American heritage should receive more attention. The DNR's Herb Johnson stressed preserving our natural heritage. Don Cole brought Leland fisherman Bill Carlson to address the group about the dangers of over-commercialization.

An article decried the increase in property taxes, some of which went up over 500% in one year because of the

*Continued on page 27.*

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**On This Date, continued from page 25.**

rapidly accelerating land values. A letter was printed in which John Malloy protested against taxation increases without comparable service increases.

Jim Janda traveled to Tuscon to pick up the Island's new Emergency Evacuation plane, a surplus DeHavilland Beaver. He flew it back, saying it behaved perfectly.

Martha Gallagher Zalusky wrote to say she had a wonderful time at the Chicago Party but was disappointed that the only one from Beaver Island was Father Herbert, who had a very good time. Her nephew, Father Bernard Scheid, donated the use of his Parish Hall for the event.

**Forty Years Ago** When rabbit season ended, the hunters and dogs leaving the woods celebrated an excellent year. Ice fishing too was very good; Don Nelson spent several days on Lake Geneserath, taking good pike, and Doc Sorenson caught his limit of panfish on Barney's. The Game Club clear-cut a patch of cedar swamp west of Wicklow Beach for habitat. A warning was issued: the turkeys are still protected, and will be until they prosper.

A rash of beard-growing hit the Island (even Phil Gregg succumbed) although Gene Burke had a good excuse:

"Doc Protar made me do it," referring to Protar's advice to the mail carriers.

Archie and Alvin LaFreniere set up a shop in the Shamrock to manufacture lawn furniture, but still served the few who wandered in for a drink.

A card came from Neil Gallagher, who had left the Island for Alaska over fifty years before.

Karl and Connie Baber were appointed the new managers of the Beaver Lodge.

The Michigan Outdoor Writers Association announced it would hold its annual convention on Beaver Island the following June.

Ann Gatliff Kurth and her husband Bayard announced the birth of their son Bayard (still a regular visitor to his property near Dannyville on the West Side.)

Editor Phil Gregg relayed the story of Peter Boyle, his barn, and his car. In 1921 there was a rash of building big barns. Not one to be outdone, Peter hired Tommy Gallagher to build him one "a foot wider and a foot longer than any other here, and as high as she'll go." The result was fine: a sturdy barn with pairs of high doors in the middle of each side. On a trip to Detroit Peter was impressed by seeing all the automobiles, and decided to buy one. In short order a new 1921

Model T rolled off the deck of the mail boat. Trying to get it started, everyone standing around offered their suggestions, some patently foolish, but he got it started anyway. That turned out to be the easy part. When he drove home he realized he didn't know how she stopped, so he called his father out to open the barn doors as he sputtered around in a tight circle. His father complied, but not knowing about Peter's failure to master the brakes didn't open the other pair, which smashed when Peter tried to come to a stop against them. Soon Peter had a padded "stopping tree" so he wouldn't wreck any more barn doors. That worked fine for his home, but going elsewhere produced a problem. He worked out a system with Nels LaFreniere, though, that allowed him to go shopping. Nels liked to sit outside when business was slow, so Peter would drive past, yell out his order for Pearlless Tobacco and other staples, and then head on to Whiskey Point where the County had built him a nice turnaround. Coming back, Nels would throw the bag into the car, and mark the charge down on his bill. Eventually Peter learned about the brake; seeing his new-found mastery, other people then felt it was safe to follow suit, and several other cars soon arrived on Beaver Island.



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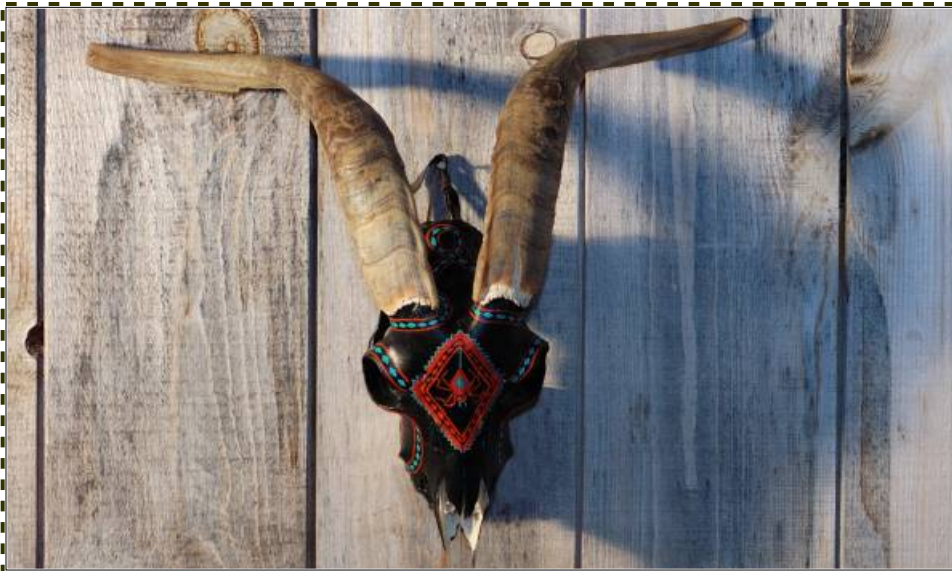
A glance at the Connors family, who've been building their homestead on Paid Een Og's Road for the past few years, produces some interesting sights. First in the crosshairs is usually Jeff, a timber framer and excellent singer from Colorado who finally brought his family back to a place where he'd worked as a teenager in the 70s, which he'd never forgot. Or on master pumpkineer Levi, an 11-year-old phenom always ready to show off his latest picture book detailing his hero's adventures going around

the world in a flying submergible truck strong enough to bust through the Great Wall of China in a pinch. Or daughter Hannah, 13, who wowed the audience at last spring's Talent Show, and also plays the piano, draws, and writes (her book has reached 297 pages; she's also created her own alphabet for shorter works.) But today's focus is on the multi-talented mom, Heidi, and one of her many genres, the "art in decay."

Heidi considers herself to be primarily a grower, a vocation that began

at age 6 when she discovered she could communicate with plants. With four greenhouses in Durango she developed a reputation for her ability to bring gardens to life, but at the same time her interest in the full life cycle brought her into touch with death and the ways this natural conclusion could be beautiful.

Perhaps it began with picking up dead porcupines on the road and draping their skins around the burls and knots of trees to let them dry in the sun—or perhaps simply from her respect







for the work of fellow southwest artist Georgia O'Keeffe, whose paintings incorporating animal skulls (and even living tissues) are legendary. Her family has been in the southwest for 300 years, absorbing both Spanish and Native American traditions—which she expresses in her skull painting. Working with vibrant acrylic paint, she has transformed and elevated the skulls of elk, ram, horse, goat, and mule deer, and several smaller animals. She frequently incorporates a “zia,” a part of

New Mexico's flag that represents a Native American window to the creator. She has also used the figure of Coco Pele, the folk boogie man she was warned to fear by her bee-keeping grandfather.

Once her path became clear, her productivity and fame began to grow. The prestigious Ton-Atin Gallery in Durango began to handle her work, selling pieces for \$300 and up. Getting examples of her chosen “canvas” is not easy. It took her ten years to find a per-

fect ram's head, and even steer heads cost her at least \$50—plus she has to cook them down herself. She was able to obtain a buffalo skull, her prize, and has it nailed to her home while she waits for inspiration.

There's something fitting about creating art on skulls, she says. “The beauty of creation persists even in a state of decay.” It's a symbol of how transitory our lives are, and will add a southwest flavor to Beaver Island's burgeoning artscene, thanksto Heidi.



## One Hundred Years Ago

Charlevoix Sentinel March 8, 1904  
Local News: "An item is going the rounds of the press that the proposed Beaver Island Weather Bureau cable will go from Manitou Island to Beaver Island. Nothing could be further from the truth. Some person made a guess. The fact is, and we know whereof we speak, the cable will go from Cross Village, this being the nearest point from the mainland. Prof. Cox, of Chicago, who will have charge of the matter, was at Beaver Island last summer and told this writer, as he has since, that the only feasible route is that from Cross Village. (Note: H. J. Cox of Chicago signed the Beaver Hotel register on July 31, 1903 immediately below Willard A. Smith of Charlevoix, editor of the Charlevoix Sentinel.) There is not one single reason for the Manitou Island route and there are many against it. The chief objection is that it would take twelve more miles of cable than it would by the Cross Village route."

Charlevoix Sentinel March 10, 1904  
Local News: "A cable to Beaver Island will work wonders for the land across the water. Besides being of great benefit to shipping interests, it will increase by a bound the desirability of the Island as a summer resort. The chief objection to the Island as a resort has been the absence of any telephone or telegraph communica-

tion with the mainland. When that is secured, we may expect to see cottages built and a big revival of resort business there. There is no more beautiful spot on the chain of lakes than Beaver Island."

The Beaver Island Cable: "On the 6<sup>th</sup> Representative Darragh introduced a bill entitled 'bill to establish storm warning stations at St. James, Beaver Island, Mich.' The bill was referred to the committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce and ordered printed."

"On Tuesday morning Mr. Darragh received a favorable report from the committee and the bill stands a good chance of passage in its order. The bill appropriated \$100,000 for cable and display stations."

Beaver Island News: "Taxes are rounded up in the township strong box."

"The Garden Island boys are doing good trout fishing with hook and line."

"Sam White returned to Naubinway last week after a week's visit with friends on the Island."

"Fred Landenburg made a trip to Cross Village, returning Saturday with over a ton and a half of hay and feed."

"Our mail carriers are doing valiant service this winter in getting our mail to us twice each week since they began on the ice route."

"An amateur theatrical is being

prepared to be given on St. Patrick's Day in the evening. Good music is also underway—both instrumental and vocal, and a fine program may be confidently looked for. Particulars later."

"John Dahlmer returned from Buffalo last week where he has been visiting his father and incidentally doing a stroke of business for himself. We understand John purchased a tug for fishing purposes. He will bring it to the Island soon after navigation opens."

"James Wachter, light keeper of Green Island and an old resident of the Beavers, is visiting relatives and friends on the Island. He was promoted several years ago from Squaw Island light to his present position. His many friends are giving him the glad hand all around and are glad to see him looking so well."

"Sunday, February 24<sup>th</sup> witnessed the first soft weather in nearly three months but our thaw promptly took cold. Sunday night and Monday forenoon we were treated to some more standard winter weather, great chunks of it blowing through the anatomy of anyone venturing out of doors. Several teams who got started for Cross Village for hay, as well as the mail carriers, were compelled to turn back."

"The true story of Frank Sherman's adventure in crossing the ice is appended

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below as related by that worthy upon his arrival here.

"Leaving Hog Island Saturday morning he made his way in the direction of Charlevoix. After noon a snowstorm came up and darkness came on. Having no matches he trusted to the direction of the wind. Soon after dark it shifted and after wandering all night he went ashore thinking he was between Bay Shore and Petoskey. While sitting on a stump cogitating over prospects for a morning repast, Charley Wright came along on his way to his fish shanty. Sherman then learned he was on Dr. Cook's farm on Emmet Beach, and Cook's residence was pointed out to him. Sherman got his breakfast here and drove with the family to Harbor Springs. From there he took train to Charlevoix where he obtained the supplies he went after. On the return, he took train to Petoskey, walked across to Harbor Springs and from there to Cross Village, where he fell in with Mr. Wione/Winne who had a team there for hay. Together they started for Beaver Island. They traveled all day and a good portion of the night, the team finally becoming exhausted necessitating leaving the load of hay five miles out in the lake. The two men arrived here with the team at three o'clock the next morning. Sherman still none the worse for wear."

Charlevoix Sentinel Thursday, March 17, 1904 Local News: "Francis Donlevy, treasurer of Peaine Township, Beaver Island, has proved his good citizenship by obeying a circuit court summons to serve as juror at the present term of court. Besides traveling half the length of Beaver Island from his home to St. James, he came over with the mail carrier to Cross Village Friday, arriving here Saturday and reporting for duty at the court house Monday morning. So far as we can remember, it is the first instance of a citizen of Beaver Island coming over on the ice in obedience to a summons to serve as juror, and no bench warrant has ever been issued against them."

Beaver Island News: "Mary Odeneme aged 2 years died on High Island March 2."

"John Moses age 101 years died March 2 on Beaver Island's west side."

"James Wachter, keeper of Green Island Light returned to his home last week."

"Born to Mr. and Mrs. Peter Jensen of Garden Island March 3, a fine baby boy. All concerned doing nicely."

"Two teams left for Cross Village March 7th, for hay making seven loads of hay from across the pond last week."

"Fred Nackerman is making a visit to his family and numerous friends. He

has been steadily employed ever since his last visit here at his trade of expert brick layer. Fred says he is going to build a house near the harbor this spring for a permanent home for himself and family."

"A meeting of the fishermen of Beaver Island was held March 3, for the object of forming a union; thirty-two members were secured at the first meeting and W. J. Gallagher was elected president. Next meeting of the union occurs Saturday evening, March 12, at Gallagher's hall."

"C. O. Butler writes us as follows: 'For fear the Charlevoix people will not get the news of Mr. Benham and Mr. Beebe's adventures on the lake from Charlevoix here (the head of the Island), I will give you the following information for publication."

"The nursery men left Charlevoix Saturday, March 27, for the Beavers, walking all day. When they were out a short time their compass failed so they pushed on until later in the day they came in sight of the Island, but as darkness came on, their compass not working and could not seeing the Island, they concluded to look for an icy berth. They found a cake of ice which they were able to set up for protection from the wind and turned in for the night, suffering from the

*Continued on page 32.*



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### One Hundred Years Ago, continued from page 31.

cold although the night was the warmest since November. At daybreak they pushed on for the Island and reached the lighthouse at the south end at 11 a. m. very nearly played out. My wife and I soon got dry clothing for them and refreshments. Mr. Benham soon discovered that both feet were severely frozen which required considerable treatment.

"On Monday morning they started for St. James but soon discovered they were not able to travel so laid over another day, when Mr. Beebe went down the Island to get a horse to take Mr. Benham down. Mr. Beebe owns a nursery at Ada, Mich., and is none the worse for his trip."

Charlevoix Sentinel March 24, 1904 Beaver Island News: "Mrs. Ward and son returned Saturday last after a visit in Manistee."

"Anthony Malloy went to Cross Village last week after supplies for the meat market."

"Captain Dan Martin went to Charlevoix after gill net twine Monday of this week. The roads across the lake are better than they have been all winter."

"A caucus was held in Peaine Township March 14, 1904-- Following officers were nominated: Supervisor, Frank C. McAulay; Clerk, Phil C. Gallagher; Treas., Dan P. Boyle; Highway Commissioner, Frances McCafferty. Complete changes were

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made with the exception of Clerk."

"A caucus was held in St. James Township for the nomination of officers for the spring election. Following nominations were made: Supervisor, W. J. Gallagher; Clerk, Raymond McDonald; Treasurer, James McCann Senior; Road Commissioner, John Floyd. All of these men have served the town in the past and are well deserving of re-election."

"Big time on Beaver Island on Saint Patrick's Day. The entertainment given by the schools at Gallagher's hall was attended by the largest crowd of the season. The fifteen piece orchestra was the surprise of the occasion as it did its part remarkably well. The larger part of the evening was taken up by an amateur dramatical production which was worthy of better stage facilities but withal well carried out. Much credit is due the Dominican Sisters and Father Zugelder upon whose shoulders the responsibility for the success of the affair rested, for the admirable manner in which the excellent program was rendered."

Charlevoix Sentinel March 31, 1904 Local News: "The captain of the schooner *Rouse Simmons* is here to regain and fit out his vessel. The *Simmons* wintered here."

"It is considered probable that Mrs. Gibson, the well-known St. James landlady, is seriously ill. Her daughter, Mrs. W. F. Gill of Harbor Springs, accompanied by her husband, went there via Cross Village last week."

— Joyce Bartels

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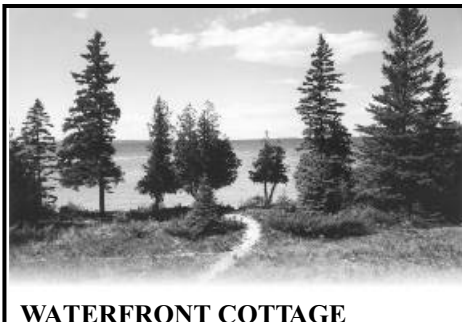
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### **WATERFRONT COTTAGE**

#### **FOR RENT:**

Fabulous sunset view. Quiet, wooded location near Indian Point (NW side). One BR and loft. Sleeps four max. Everything you need is there! Sorry, no smoking or pets. \$650/week in season. Off season available. [dtn@i2k.com](mailto:dtn@i2k.com) or (616) 396.6468 or (616) 791.8222.



### **HOUSE FOR LEASE:**

Three BRs, two and one half bath house for lease. Located right on the south side of the harbor with a great view. 5 minutes to town but a private location too. For more information call Robert at (231) 448-2235



### **DONEGAL BAY HOUSE FOR**

**RENT:** Nice wooded location. Newly built. Two bedrooms. New kitchen. Summer: \$675. Off-season \$425. (734) 449-8711 or [nprawat@yahoo.com](mailto:nprawat@yahoo.com)



**HOUSE FOR SALE:** On 10 Acres of beautiful woods. Custom throughout. \$139,900. Call Mike Collins (231) 448-2433

**COTTAGE SITE:** Vacant wooded lot in Port St. James. Power, perked, ready for building. Call owner (269) 857-6084



### **BEAUTIFUL 3 BEDROOM HOME FOR SALE (or 2 BR + den)**

On the shores of Lake Michigan. Featuring 115 feet of frontage property, unspoiled panoramic views, and countless upgrades. See [www.usrnull.com/house](http://www.usrnull.com/house) for many photos and details, or call (231) 448-2219 / cell (231) 409-9442



### **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. \$1095/week; spring & fall \$895. Limit 6 people. Please call (706) 268-2022, (219) 874-4676. May to Nov: 448-2001.

### **Real Estate, For Sale:**

**BEAVER ISLAND HARBOR** - Protected Harbor site: 60' Lake frontage by 250' deep. North of Toy Museum. Call (231) 448-2391.

**GREAT LOTS FOR COTTAGE IN PORT ST. JAMES** - 3 to choose from. Wooded, power, perked, Lake Michigan access nearby. Call (269) 857-6084.

**100 ACRE PARCEL AVAILABLE** - \$1500/acre. Hunting, vacation, or investment property. Call (231) 448-2167 or (231) 237-0173.

**PORT ST. JAMES** - 3 Wooded Lots #727,728,729 A few blocks to Font Lake, 1/2 mile to Lake Mich. \$29,000 for all 3. \$5000 down, will finance bal. Call owner in FL (352) 326-8979.

**PARCEL ON GARDEN ISLAND HARBOR FOR SALE** - 1000+ feet of Lake Michigan / Indian Harbor lake frontage on Garden Island. One of a kind property. 8 acres. Land Contract Terms. \$195,000. Contact Jayson Welser, Box 357, Grayling

Michigan 49738. (989) 619-2800. [jaysonwelser@hotmail.com](mailto:jaysonwelser@hotmail.com)

**LAKE MICHIGAN LOT** - 175 feet of frontage overlooking Garden Island and Hog Island. Pebble and sand shoreline near Lookout Point. Call (616) 636-5685.

### **Wanted:**

**FONT LAKE PROPERTY WANTED** - Turning 60 in 2004. I want the impossible: property on Font Lake. Can you make my dream come true? Call collect (773) 463-5494 evenings. [flanaganl@lightfirst.com](mailto:flanaganl@lightfirst.com).

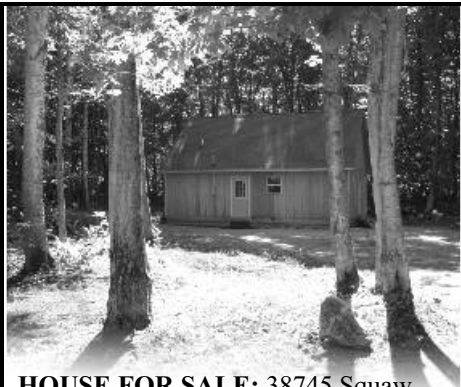
### **Real Estate, For Rent:**

**DONEGAL BAY** - 3 BR 2 bath Home; sleeps 6; many amenities. \$830 a week. Reduced rates for off-season. Phone (313) 885-7393, after 4:00 p.m.

**WEEKLY RENTAL** - Harbor Beach Two-bedroom Condos. \$475/week. Call Carol Wierenga at (231) 448-2808, (231) 448-2598 or (231) 448-2596.

**DONEGAL BAY COTTAGE** - On dune with private beach access. 3 BR, 1 bath,





**HOUSE FOR SALE:** 38745 Squaw Island Ct. in the Port St. James. Interior not yet finished so you can finish it exactly how you like. Electrical and plumbing have been run and it is connected to GLE. \$59,000 Call Ed Wojan Realty (231) 448-2711



**BEACHFRONT HOME FOR RENT:** 3 bedrooms and loft – total 5 beds, hot tub, gorgeous views, solitude, wood stove, May-Sept. \$1050 / Off-season \$795. Call Perry at (313) 530-9776 or e-mail pgatliff@hotmail.com  
House is also for sale for \$325,000



**FOR RENT:** Beautiful secluded new chalet near Donegal Bay's beach and gorgeous sunsets. 3 BR, 2 Bath. MBR has garden tub. W/DR/TV/VCR/Grill. Upon availability, bikes & auto for your use. Sleeps 6-8. No Pets. \$700/week. Ask about our 3-day package. Call (708) 389-0621 (evenings)



**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

**FOR SALE: Beautiful New Home** located in Port St. James, 1,800 sq. ft. home, planned for efficient living: 3 bedrooms and 2 full bathrooms, Cathedral ceilings (T & G Pine), large open loft, master suite with walk-in closet and master bath. Wrap-around covered porches, steep roofline with dormers, cedar siding. Beautiful wooded double lot. Quiet setting. One mile to Port St. James private beach on Lake Michigan. 1.5 miles to St. James village. Call Ed Wojan Realty: (231) 448-2711 or 1-800-268-2711



**BEACHFRONT HOME FOR RENT:** Beaver Sands, Lake Michigan. Fully furnished. (810) 227-2366

sleeps 6, washer/dryer. Kayaks and bikes for your use. \$750.00/week. Off season rates on request. Dana Luscombe evenings (248) 546-2701 dpluscombe@msn.com  
**WEEKLY RENTAL** - Lake front. "The Last Resort" 2 BR house on Sand Bay, great view, beautiful sunrise, laundry pair, 1 1/2 bath. Phone Bill McDonough at (231) 448-2733 (days).

**COMMERCIAL BUILDING ON MAIN STREET** - Prime retail or office - references, deposit and lease required. Contact John Johnson (616) 842-8214 or (231) 448-2533 or e-mail Cloud9@chartermi.net

**WATERFRONT COTTAGE** - On the east side. Available by the week or weekend. One BR, full kitchen and bath. Enjoy the water and the woods, year round. Off-season rates. Complete privacy. (231) 448-2907.

**CEDAR COTTAGE** - on a bluff with view of harbor and mainland. 1/4 mile south of Catholic Church. 2 BRs, 1dbl. bed, 2 single;.

TV/VCR, grill, complete kitchen, washer. No pets. \$580/wk. (734) 769-7565 (day), (734) 475-6178 (evenings). mschroer@a2mich.com

**2 BR, 1 1/2 BATH HOME IN TOWN** - one block from Harbor. Sleeps 5-6. All appliances incl. Laundry. \$600 per week. Off season rates. NO pets. No Smoking. (614) 899-9922.

**FLORIDA HOUSE FOR RENT** - Spacious 3-bedroom, 2-bath home in Port Charlotte, FL (just north of Fort Myers). Swimming pool, fruit trees, near golf course. 3 miles to Gulf shoreline. By week or month. Call Laura Gillespie (231) 448-2366.

**Cars, Trucks, Boats, and Planes:**

**1986 BAYLINER 28'**: New 265 hp engine. Very good shape. Asking \$16,500. (231) 448-2342.

**Services:**

**STORAGE UNITS:** You lock it, you leave it! Call Emerald Isle Storage. (231) 448-2577.



**FOR RENT:**

House and cabin in the woods for rent on the East Side Drive. Both 3 BR and sleep six. Both have washer, dryer, and 2 baths. Campfire pits and wood provided. Property connects to major hiking/nature trails. Quiet and secluded, on the east side - one mile from State campground and beautiful beach. Please call (616) 897-8564

**80 ACRE PARCEL HUNTING PROPERTY FOR SALE:** Available at the South End of the Island. \$1350/acre. Call (231) 448-2167 or (231) 237-0173



See the Centerfold for the Story from Bud Martin and Eric Fogg



photos courtesy of Captain Bill Sullivan aboard the Ralph Tucker



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