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*some stories in this issue:*

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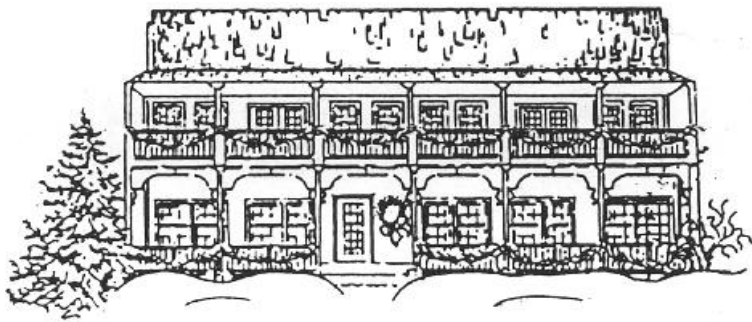
Yacht Dock Rebuild Progressing Quickly; News from the Camps; BIRHC Board Positions

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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

the Island Monthly since 1955  
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 Paradise Bay Press

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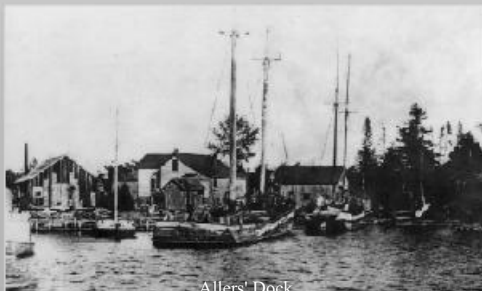
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## News from the Townships

### St. James Town Board

The St. James Town Board switched to 7:00 a.m., their winter starting time, for the November 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting. They began by approving the only bids for snowplowing and fuel oil, from Gordon Heika (higher than last year because of rising costs) and Bud Martin. His bid of \$2.08 was up ~\$0.50; Jim Wojan said the Township tanks, which are almost empty, should have been topped off before the old rate expired on November 1<sup>st</sup>.

Now that it has a permit from the DEQ for a roof over the two fish boats at the Marine Museum, and a revetment, the Historical Society asked for support for a grant request it intended to make to the Grand Traverse Bay Band for \$25,000. The Board accepted this request.

There was some discussion of the disruption of parking for The Sommer Place caused by the placement of the Donegal Bay Bike Trail. While the Board did not reject the idea of moving the path where it crosses this property, it would have to study any proposed change, and the owner would have to cover the costs because his parking is, to some extent, in the right-of-way.

Jean Palmer reported that Hugh Mason, the Township's accountant, recommended switching from Manitron to Quick Books because the annual fee was much less (~\$200 instead of ~\$2,000.) Kevin White mentioned that Charlevoix has also made this change.

There were several questions about the newly-finished public beach parking lot and the payment for it. The land swap was being held up because of slow-moving attorneys who had not yet finished dividing up the former (un-built) road right-of-way. Typically this is divided equally among lots through which an abandoned right-of-way runs, but Phyllis Fitzpatrick did not want half—but did want the beach's port-a-john moved out of her line of sight. This was another complication. But the main cause for delay came because new lots are being created with new numbers, which the state had to approve, first, and then a judge.

Water seeming to come out of the parking lot drains raised a question about their correctness. It was pointed out that water coming down the hill runs into the lot and floods the catch basin, and that excess is expected to come up through the slots in its cap, sit in a puddle, and gradually settle—otherwise the excess water could flow into the lake as a potential pollutant.

Another matter involving this parking lot concerned the “unit price contract,” which not everyone understood. Schwartzfisher Stoneworks’ bid actually set unit prices in 21 areas, but could only estimate unit volumes, which would be gauged as the work unfolded. Schwartzfisher had charged \$2,900 extra for his effort to remove unexpected “bad dirt,” which contained debris that had

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apparently been dredged out of the lake. There was some concern that a clause in the contract required him to ascertain this before starting, and yet even with this overage the total price was \$1,400 less than the estimate. Also, the "bid bond," which Schwartzfisher had submitted with his bid, had not been returned—it should've been when he started work.

The two-year lease on the former DNR building was up for renewal. Two very minor changes were noticed in the proposed lease, which was approved.

The airport tree clearing project was discussed, the cutting of trees in Airport Homesites, a plat east of the airport now owned by the airport. An estimate for this work was ~\$30,000; the FAA would pay either 90 or 95%, with the state picking up half of the balance. Unfortunately some trees on the Paradise Bay Coffee Shop property were also designated for removal.

The new fire truck was nearing completion, and should arrive before the boat stops running. A group of firemen inspected it in its pre-paint stage in Grayling and made several adjustments.

The Whiskey Point Light acquisition was on track, and thought was being given to a grand celebration.

There was some talk about the newly-paved road. Several people had been startled by its traffic lines, particularly the double yellow strip for "no passing" and the unexpected sharp

curve by the new Government Building. The CCRC's job supervisor had spread a scratch coat to level the surface, but he used too much asphalt and consequently the final bill had risen ~\$27,000. Peaine and St. James had to stick to the amounts generated by the bond, though (\$102,000 and \$221,000), so the Road Commission would have to eat this—not unfair, since a good argument could be made for the CCRC paying it all.

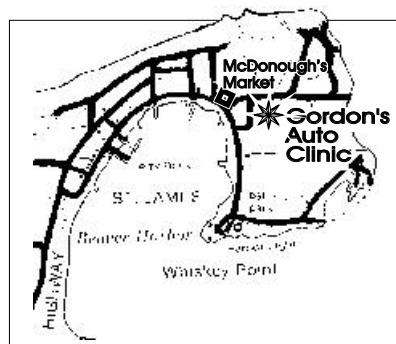
#### Peaine Town Board

The November 10<sup>th</sup> Peaine Township meeting began with an appearance by the BMX Club led by John Albin. The group of students had completed a proposed contract between the BMX Club, the Youth Consortium, and the Township, and had called at 6:30 the evening prior to be added to the agenda. However supervisor Works stated that some figures were missing from the contract, such as the cost of removal if the track outlived its usefulness at some point in the future, and he wanted the group to meet with Marty Kuligowski to nail down that cost. Discussion of the contract was tabled until the next meeting, with the group agreeing to meet with Supervisor Works beforehand to make sure everything was in order.

Following approval of the October 13<sup>th</sup> minutes and the payment of bills, a letter (from the Schrottenboers) was read in support of a nuisance ordinance, *Continued on page 6, see Township News*

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*Township News, continued from page 5.*  
expressing the desire that Peaine should use the current situation as an opportunity to put in place a plan that insures future tranquility despite growth, with the warning that the current reality of the Cooks could become the future reality for everyone if no ordinance is passed.

Supervisor Works had called the Undersheriff and learned that a judge in Charlevoix has broadly applied section 328 of the 1931 penal code, Disturbance of Lawful Meetings, to also apply to disturbance of the peace. The township attorney had used this precedent, and incorporated "homestead grounds and public waterways" to create a potential Disturbance of the Peace Ordinance—which would be a sufficient basis for Charlevoix County Sheriff Department enforcement. The proposed ordinance included penalties of \$50 for a first offense, \$100 for a second, and \$200 for a third. Retiring Board member Judy Lanier argued that the proposed penalties were not strong enough, at which time two audience members stated that they agreed - \$50 would not be much of a penalty to a group of partiers; the penalty should be so stiff that people will abide by it without it having to be enforced 10,000 times. Nelson suggested that action should be taken against the owner of property for renters' actions, making owners more careful when renting, and Judy agreed. Supervisor Works ques-

tioned whether it would be possible, or make sense, to go after an absent party rather than simply penalizing the actual offender, remarking—"Why should I shoot my pig because my cow keeps jumping over the fence?" From the audience, future board member Paul Welke brought up the complication of absentee owners, and the difficulty of enforcement, while future board member Pete Lodico suggested a first-time penalty against the actual offender and notification of the owner, with second offences resulting in penalties against both owner and renter. Various numbers were discussed, with Judy proposing \$200 for a first offense, per offender, and a \$500 penalty to the owner and \$500 per offender on subsequent offenses. An audience member mentioned that this would require a time period so that an owner would not be penalized because of something that happened 10 years in the past. The board agreed that the language, in concept, was acceptable, but it was felt that the Township Attorney would need to go over the new penalty structure and should be consulted to determine the limits of enforcement for such civil infractions. So the ordinance was tabled until the December meeting.

Island Energies submitted the only bid for fuel oil, at \$2.08/gallon which was approved. Gordy Heika submitted snow-plowing bids of \$57/plow for the Township Hall and \$64/plow for the



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Transfer Station, which were felt to be very fair bids and accepted. A letter from Heika was also read in which he stated that he would like to be called if the Airport plowing equipment ever breaks down so that the Airport can be kept open. This letter was then passed on to the Airport Committee.

Renewal of use permits for the DNR building and Bill Wagner Campground were approved.

Next Don Vyse appeared on behalf of the Airport Committee; since the committee itself can't sign agreements, it needed authorization for a consultant to prepare a bid proposal to MDOT for clearing the trees, which are starting to grow up into the approach path to the Township Airport's runway 27. The Airport owns the land, and similar clearing was done in the past as well. At this point it's not clear whether we will have to pay 2 1/2 % or 5% of the \$30,000 project. The Township then approved a motion to advertise for tree clearing on this property.

The Kings Highway pavement bill came to \$102,183.53, which was an 11% cost overrun, but the board was very happy with the work and approved this payment.

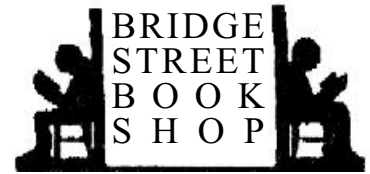
Bud Martin asked the Township to support his request for a liquor license; the board approved (the Clerk left for this vote, to prevent any conflict of interest.)

Now that the dangerous spots in

Mrs. Reddings Trail have been straightened out through tree clearing, the board agreed that the Road Commission should be informed that the township was satisfied and ready for the road to be designated as a Natural Beauty Road.

With the new East Side Fire Hall underway, Supervisor works proposed that the architect who designed the new Fire Hall be consulted about an addition to the Township Hall. Judy felt that with so many other needs, a Township Hall addition was a relatively low priority, but Paul Nelson argued that there was a serious need for an addition to protect Township Documents and house them in a central location; some are currently stored off site due to lack of space. By law, records need to be stored for up to 8 years. The proposed addition would be the width of the hall and extend back 40', consisting of 3 to 4 offices for trustees and the Township Clerk (to allow for office hours), a full basement for storage, and a public entrance relocated to the rear in order to be able to not heat the main Hall space when it's not in use. Tina pointed out that she doesn't necessarily need an office, but John argued that the addition was not only for today but also for tomorrow's needs, while meeting the immediate need for storage, and that money had been set aside regularly for this expansion for many years. Judy brought up the idea that

*Continued on page 8, see Township News*



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*Township News, continued from page 7.*  
archive documents could probably be stored at a place such as the old Medical Center, now the Government Building, but the majority felt this would be a step backwards in terms of efficiency. It was voted 2:1 to hire the architect to prepare a set of drawings and cost estimates.

Paul Nelson had given his farewells to the Michigan Township Association, whose meetings he attended and

## Election Results

The big news was that Peaine Township had its Operating Millage approved, 137 to 66. Just as was seen nationally, Beaver Island voters came out in record numbers: 213 of 256 registered voters in St. James and 227 of 281 in Peaine. In the Presidential race, Kerry beat Bush by 32 votes in St. James (127 to 95), although Bush won by 3 in Peaine (106 to 103.)

Kevin Elsenheimer lost to Jim McKimmy on the Island by 9, although he won the overall election. In the prosecutor's race John Jarema beat Ellis Boal, the Green Party candidate, by 192 here, a larger margin, but comparable, than he had on the mainland. St. James Township's three proposals won handily: Township Operation (124 to 76), Airport Operation (122 to 74), and Transfer Station Operation (141 to 58.)

Beaver Island received notice for St. James being the only precinct in Northern Michigan to vote against limiting the definition of marriage to one man, one woman (112 to 99; it was approved in Peaine, 109 to 97.)

reported on, and spoke about the importance and delicateness of having a Township representative continue to take part in these meetings in his place.

New board members Welke and Lodico were sworn in, and Supervisor Works presented a plaque to Judy for her service to the Township and to Paul for his 30 years of dedicated service, half as supervisor downstate, and 12 years for Peaine Township.

## Terry Mooney wins Award

As Director of the Gilbert (Arizona) Days Parade, Terry Mooney, the daughter of Eleanor and LaDonnis, meticulously organized and executed the details of this annual community event, and was named "Volunteer of the Year." Her coworkers described her as cheerful and pleasant throughout the long process.

She was also the person responsible for completing a recent Community Leadership project. Upon receiving the Geneva Clay Award, she remarked that she was surprised, and "this award gives me a true sense of accomplishment."

## Cookies Cookies

Once again the ladies of the Beaver Island Christian Church will hold a Cookie Carnival on December 9<sup>th</sup> at the church, starting at 1:00 and lasting "until the last cookie crumbles." Samplers can sit and enjoy a cup of coffee as they try to make the always-difficult decision of what to leave behind, lonely and unwanted until the next hungry shopper comes along.

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## Children's X-mas Party Santa's Workshop

The Emerald Isle Hotel and the AMVETS and Ladies Auxiliary of Post #46 will again partner in the Annual Children's Christmas Party on Saturday, December 11<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 until 2:00 at the Hotel's 2<sup>nd</sup> floor lounge. Hot dogs, chips, cookies, ice cream and lemonade will be served to the kids and their parents at no charge. Santa and Mrs. Claus will be there to hear the Christmas wish lists and pass out gifts to the kids.



Pictures will be taken of each child with Santa and given to them with our best Happy Holiday wishes.



The AMVETS and Ladies Auxiliary will again host a Santa's Workshop at the Beaver Island Community School on Tuesday, December 14, to enable the kids to purchase affordably-priced gifts for their families and friends. All items will be \$1.00 or less. Please send a list of names of the people to receive presents and the money to cover purchases with your child on that morning. Adult volunteers will be available to help the youngsters select and wrap their purchases. In case you forget, notices will be sent home from school as a reminder of this great event.

## Sports Boosters News

Our season is off to a great start. Several parent and athlete/students have been busy raising funds to help cover the cost of the sports program. Our funds mainly go towards helping with travel expenses, and, this year, purchasing some needed new uniforms. The Soccer team received new long-sleeve shirts & socks; the Volleyball team received new home-and-away shirts; and the Basketball team is receiving new warm-up shirts.

Thanks to all the Parents & students who helped with the fund-raisers so far, which have included the food table at Homecoming in August, the Spaghetti Dinner this Fall (THANKS to Mike Bailey for making the special sauce, and Nina's restaurant for donating it),

plus the Cookie Dough sale that was held this fall.

Also a BIG THANKS to the community for continuously helping support our sports program.

Upcoming fund-raisers to watch for include **The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Chili Cook-Off** scheduled for March 10<sup>th</sup>. All entries are encouraged—watch for the posters. Dinners will be provided again before and during the Basketball/Volleyball games on Friday at the Home Games.

Our next Sports Boosters' Meeting is scheduled for March; the date will be posted next year.

Sincerely,  
Diane McDonough  
Sports Booster President

## Next From EIR:

**"WHERE ARE YOU CHRISTMAS?"**

December 18 & 19

8:00 at the Holy Cross Hall

Imagine it, Christmas Eve spent with a busload of snowed-in stranded strangers, nine adults, two teenage girls, and a group of screaming children all on their way to somewhere else. This band of eager but unhappy holiday travelers must spend Christmas Eve in a lodge belonging to a man with a mysterious disdain for anything Christmas. A musical featuring familiar and not so familiar holiday classics, along with an original script by Brian Porter and Kyle Barnette, *Where Are You Christmas?* will show the true meaning of the season has more to do with connecting with one another than filling up on candy and gifts. Call 1-231-448-2184 for reservations

## Toy Drive in Progress...

As reported last month, for the 13<sup>th</sup> year Connie Boyle is holding the Ellen Welke Memorial Toy Drive for children living in Charlevoix County. You can drop off toys to Neal or Connie, at home, at school, or at the airport—by December 11<sup>th</sup>. Don't gift-wrap them; Social Services will do that. If you can't make this date, there will also be a second shipment—Social Services just needs the bulk of the toys by the 11<sup>th</sup> so they have time to determine whether they have enough toys or if they need to do some shopping. Call Connie at (231) 448-2491 with any questions.

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## Denny Fisher 1942 – 2004

Dennis E. Fisher, 62, of Beaver Island, and formerly of Fort Wayne, died Saturday, Nov. 6, 2004, in Petoskey. He was born August 24, 1942, in Ft. Wayne, the son of Dale E. and Dorothy K. (Aumann) Fisher.

Denny worked mainly as a corporate pilot, and spent the last five years working for the Beaver Island Boat Company. He was a member of the Beaver Island Christian Church, the American Legion Post in Waynedale, FAA, QB Club, served in the US Air Force during the Vietnam War, and in the Air National Guard. He loved flying and adored his family, especially his grandchildren.

Surviving family include wife Susie; children, Danielle Saalfrank, Cynthia Black, Sherrie Shade, Timothy (Jennifer) Tellman, Thomas Smith, Patrick Smith, Sarah Smith, Michael Smith; grandchildren, Edison, Juliet, Marcie, James Phillip, Lillian; mother, Dorothy K. Fisher; siblings, Douglas E. Fisher, Deborah K. Fisher, David E. Fisher. He was preceded in death by his father.

The funeral was at the Beaver Island Christian Church, and interment took place at Holy Cross Cemetery. A service was also held in Fort Wayne.

## Denny's Sunsets

*To Midwest farming he was born  
there learned the family chores.  
He drove his favorite tractor there  
and dreamed of distant shores.*

*Straight furrows through the dust he'd plow  
beneath the burning sun.  
From sun-up to the night he'd toil  
until his day was done.*

*The skies above looked cool and blue  
oft laced with vapor trails.  
He wondered where the planes they went  
farm tractors moved like snails.*

*His wanderlust brought him to fly  
the skies his oceans blue.  
He'd meet the daybreak first, head on  
then race a sunsets hue.*

*Our Island then became his home  
he shared it with his wife.  
At night they'd watch their special show  
a star filled dome their life.*

*A friendly greeting was his mark  
when working on the dock.  
He shared great jokes that laughter brought  
A caring smile his stock.*

*Last week he left us down below  
horizons in his sight.  
And then he caught the sunset fair  
and found "His" pure white light.*

For Denny Fisher, a friend gone all too soon.  
Jack R. Spanhak, November 8, 2004



## Great Bazaar Gifts

As people wandered through the rows of tables set up at the Hall, picking up custom linens, beaver pelts and peacock feathers, wonderful cards and photographs, jewelry, hand-painted ornaments, unique hats, lotions, stuffed animals, candles, books, and much more, and sampling the delicious fudge and snacks, the biggest question was: "Who's having more fun, the crowds filling up their Christmas lists or the craftsmen selling their fine creations?"



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## The Fence is Erect

The crew from Petoskey Fence (the low bidder) were on the Island over Thanksgiving to erect the almost-\$80,000 Homeland Security fence around the ferry dock, which was required by law. While the fence seems to many to be very *mainland*, and it blocks the view of the harbor and ferries, since the fence was required by law we were lucky to get a talented crew to assemble it, and a fence much better-looking than the potential alternatives. The right-sized gates should arrive soon.



## News from the Camps

One sentiment heard in many of the various hunting camps set up around the Island, particularly in the wild ranges of the lower half, was that this was a heck of a time for an Indian Summer. Yet despite the unseasonable warmth that impeded the hunt, even those hunters who sat in their blind all day without seeing anything to shoot had a good time. Some recalled a comparable lean time when airborne poachers were decimating the herd to cash on the lucrative demand for venison in Chicago and Milwaukee; others recalled the halcyon days when they hauled deer weighing well over two hundred pounds from deep in the swamp; and others overcame the limitations, through skill or through luck, and were able to bag their buck.

Despite the slender harvest, hunting on Beaver provided other satisfactions, such as the camaraderie of settling in with a cup of coffee around a campfire and becoming reacquainted with one's once-a-year buddies, or the sense of accomplishment that comes from knowing that, despite the results, one has done everything right, and everything one could, to find success.



## A Grandson's Buck

Thirteen-year-old Alex Eicher, son of Mike and Rebecca and grandson of Connie and Ed, got his first buck this year, on Beaver Island, with arrow and bow. Alex is a member of the Boy Scouts, and plays soccer and football. He's had a bow in his hands since before he turned three. He's been in plenty of deer camps, both on and off the Island, but his first year out as a hunter (last year, when he missed his only shot) was not as rewarding as this.

The young man did it right: used a safety harness to climb into his elevated (12') blind, put out bait for several weeks, and mastered the use of an infrared camera to gauge the presence of deer. He was rewarded at 7:00 p.m. on October 21<sup>st</sup> when a 5-point buck appeared 15 yards away. He thought his shot was good, but the deer ran off into the woods.

Back in camp, he waited for tracking help, as he'd been told. Soon Mike returned, and he and Alex went to look for signs. Following a blood drip, they came upon the deer 300' from Alex's blind, doing the doornail. The two men were able to lug the kill back to camp, and plan to have it mounted as a reminder of Alex's early hunting skill.

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## On This Date

**Ten Years Ago** The *Beacon* began this 14-page issue with a story about the impending new boat, for which 90% of the cost would be paid for because of 1991's Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA.) The Federal Highway Administration was to pay \$2,400,000 and Michigan's Department of Transportation another \$300,000, leaving only \$300,000 to come from local coffers. ISTEA also decreed the creation of BITA, which submitted the grant request and oversaw construction of the new boat.

Even though there were a few things to touch up on the new tennis court, it was in good enough shape for Connie Boyle to organize a Ladder Doubles Tournament for 18 students. Of the two age groups, Kellie Gillespie and Abigail Adams won the younger side and Erin McDonough and Tara Palmer the older. Harold Hart, one of those who helped make this possible, was on the Island with his son-in-law when the sun happened to shine and the temperature rose to 50, so he too availed himself of the new court, and wrote a letter to proclaim how pleased he was.

The Volunteer Firemen received accolades for their prompt arrival and skillful work putting out a fire at Ron Gallagher's home, where a woodstove fire had gotten away. Of the eighteen men listed, only one, Greg Erno, no longer lives here. In the article the Auxiliary was lauded for having raised funds for air-breathing apparatus, hoses, nozzles, pants, boots, jackets, and gloves through its Resale Shop.

Bob Graves asked the Townships to consider creating a wood waste electrical generating plant to burn his waste; a public hearing on this possibility was to be held.

A lengthy letter from Bill Schneider criticized Top O'Michigan's spraying policy. Its contractor, a Jerry Barry, had promised to contact all property owners and give them the option of having power line cuts sprayed with herbicide, but hadn't. The spraying involved two tanks containing two different chemicals, with the operator charged with turning off the one containing amasipyre (which can contaminate water) within 100' of any water. Bill

pointed out how difficult this can be here, where thickets can obscure small pools connected to our ground water, and the species of trees growing here have shallow roots that could also absorb the chemical.

The *Beacon* reprinted a story told by Florence Ricksgers, mother of Katherine and grandmother of Cindy, about her Christmas in 1948. After a Saturday evening greeting the mailboat and dancing in the Beachcomber, Florence wanted to get an early start on Sunday's traditional roast ham, but the Island's power went out. By morning it was still out, and Jewell said he'd been looking for the break in the line, to no avail. So it was firing up the wood stove and getting started on eight pies. Meanwhile the power came on for a second, flickered, and blew the main fuse again. She had a fine Christmas tree, but no lights—until she remembered having bought five Christmas candles for the five-candle holder given her by her Aunt Irene. The lights came on briefly five times during Mass, but the choir was used to an electric organ, which could not be used. Finally Jewell located the problem, two wires twisted together near Lizzie McCauley's, so he could fix it and go home to enjoy what was left of Christmas day.

The *Beacon* included a stirring paean to the Island from Ray Murray, which concluded:

*Long vapor trails scar the sky.  
The fringe of gray clouds blackens,  
and the early moon chases the sun  
across High Island  
into yesterday.*

**Twenty Years Ago** St. James Township discussed the possibility of bidding on the Coast Guard property, in response to a query from the GAO (asking for a \$10,000 returnable bid fee,) but decided to take no action. It accepted a request by Peaine to share in the \$1,942 cost of having Charlevoix Abstract and Engineering survey the Township Cemetery. The townships requested the elevation of the Deputy to full-time status.

Diane Hetherington asked St. James to partner with Peaine to build a jointly-owned Town Hall at Four Corners. St. James agreed to consider it.

The Historical Society reported that it had made \$920 on Museum Week and \$457 on a special dance. Suggestions for Heritage Park included a replica of the old Fur Trading Post, a Mormon cabin, and an old sawmill.

Plans for an addition to the school were presented. The proposed building would be 44' x 88' and cost \$245,000. It would contain a large multipurpose room (music classes, adult ed, school plays, graduation exercises, phys ed classes, and school board meetings were cited as uses), meeting and conference rooms, and restrooms, on the first floor, and mechanical and storage areas upstairs. With a levy of 2.2 mills it would be paid off in seven years.

The Detroit Institute of Art's traveling Egyptian exhibit, "The Changing face of the Sphinx," came to Beaver Island. The exhibit included a scale model plus illustrations and drawings dating back over 400 years.

Another request was made for more information about the names to be placed on the Memorial to the Dead at Sea, which was to cost \$1,800—an amount yet to be raised.

Game Club president Karl Heller thought 65-70 bucks had been taken this year; the herd was said to be "coming back." Its annual dinner was attended by 130 people. It helped send a group of 12 Islanders to plead with the DNR to place someone here after Bill Wagner's retirement, even offering to consider ways of sharing the cost.

The annual Winter Games were set for late January.

The *Beacon* printed a poem written by resident Betty Duckworth, What this Island Means to me, which opened with this couplet:

*This Island is a gift from God*

*Presented to me in my sixty-fourth year.*

**Thirty Years Ago** The *Beacon* announced that a new 62' x 40' hangar was being built at the Township Airport to house the new deHaviland emergency aircraft, *The Beaver*. A group of volunteers worked under the supervision of Airport Manager Robert Gillespie, using \$4,000 donated by Ed and Connie Wojan from his recent lottery winnings.

The Game Club stated that the 80+

bucks taken this year constituted a record—in some past years the total had been thirty. Rabbits too were being taken in large numbers. Hope was expressed that the perch would be found to have returned to the harbor, and that ice-fishing would be rewarding. Paul Kenwabikisee recently had a catch of over 3,000 pounds of whitefish, and the trout were rebounding—so why not the perch? (No such luck.)

An election for the Governing Board of the Civic Association was set for January.

Using Gillespie equipment, a group of volunteers set up a large spruce Christmas Tree on the Yacht Dock. Vera Wojan and Lil Gregg took the school kids out caroling. They also put on two short plays at the Parish Hall and then sang until Santa arrived to pass out presents. The Hall was also the site for the Christmas Bazaar, which had a fish pond for children.

This issue concluded with a story by editor Phil Gregg about his first Christmas here. He and Lilian were huddled in their home (near Dalwinnie), watching the wind howl under the door with such force that it lifted the linoleum. Suddenly party-goers from a block away appeared, saying their house was on fire. Phil ran down the street, and, sure enough, they were right. So he called Vernon Fitzpatrick, the DNR man and Fire Officer, who got the old truck running and called the other volunteers. The next day Phil and Lil took their daughters and young Mike Martin to find a Christmas Tree. They checked several groves, but the perfect tree could not be found until they were past Lake Geneserath. They started back to town with the tree tied to their trailer, but had a flat tire. Discovering the jack didn't work, Phil cut a sapling and pried the car up, bracing it with more nearby wood. But it wasn't high enough, so he used his axe to dig a hole under the tire. The kids had started walking, so Phil and Lil hurried to get the new tire on. Finally succeeding, they picked them up two miles along the road, and headed calmly back to town—until at Four Corners one of them noticed their Christmas Tree was gone. Driving back, they found it just past where they'd had their

flat. By the time they got home, their fire had gone out and their home was as cold as a barn.

Passings noted included Mabel Roy, first secretary and treasurer of the Historical Society, and Mami McCauley, who was born here in 1886.

**Forty Years Ago** The game report stated that 427 hunters had taken 172 deer, including 115 bucks, one of which was an eleven point and weighed 195 pounds. During the hunt, a hunter who entered the woods at Nomad became disoriented and didn't get out until he reached the Bonner Centennial Farm. A movie about Island rabbit hunting was shown at a sparsely-attended Game Club Banquet of Irish Stew, with Dave Jenkins, the Conservation Department's Chief Researcher, as the speaker.

A much-needed new (to the Island) fire truck arrived on one of the season's last boats.

The births of Dawn Mooney and John Cull were announced.

Bids were opened to see who would build an addition to the Yacht Dock, which would include the removal of the old Gallagher Dock and the installation of a 90' extension, which would provide an additional 14 slips. The Harbor-master Building was to be expanded, to include two shower rooms and a heating plant. Dredging near shore to a depth of 5.8' was also planned. (The Yacht Dock registered 358 yachts during the season.) The winning bid was from Superior Sand and Gravel: \$57,585.

Chester Belfy, of Charlevoix, who operated a landing barge for the Conservation Department, fell out of the upper bunk at the Island station and fractured his skull.

The Historical Society reprinted *Child of the Sea*, offering it at \$1.95.

A human skull was found a mile north of French Bay by two hunters from Charlevoix, Glenn Ingalls and Robert Sommerville. The State Forensic Lab examined it but had no idea as to its owner. One guess was that it had been a crewman from the Carl D Bradley.

The *Beacon* received a query from Hugh Harley in County Donegal (he wrote a newspaper column called *The Traveler*), wanting information about Irish Island settlers.



## A Day on Aranmore by Ruth and Jack Kelly

Having done the usual tourist circle a few years ago, we wanted to see Donegal on a one-week trip beginning November 3 (thus escaping the post-election rehashing.) We stayed in the weaving town of Ardara to get an early start on the drive to Burtonport and the Aranmore ferry. We were in time for the 10 a.m. ferry, but were queried about our car reservation. Although we had none, when the lads were told we were from Beaver Island, they assured us they would get us on and at the "Island rate."

The little drive-on ferry made its

way through the narrow and rocky passage into a brief exposure to open sea and then the island. Within 15 minutes we were in sight of the barren island with its hillside dotted with white cottages. On the boat, a young woman told us we should find Charlie O'Hara, the unofficial island-link historian. With directions from the little post office, we located the cottage where Charlie and his brother had torn everything out down to the walls to do a renovation.

However, they stopped readily and we settled in to exchange stories and

listen to the history of the landlord's removal of 161 residents to avoid paying a poorhouse tax. He dumped them on a coffin ship that made it to Canada, but sank on the way back. We went through the familiar story of Con McCauley finding the Beaver, and the recruitment of the old families. After 1½ hours we let the O'Haras get back to their project and did the circle drive. We got several dramatic shots on the west side and saw the twin islands' monument with the 2 flags blown down to a nub. There were the great rocky sea-



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scapes on a grey day, a few sheep, the brown hills, and lots of rocks. Returning to the more-settled leeward side, we looked for lunch and found the only open pub had its kitchen under repair. However, the bar was open, and conversation was easy.

It took a bit of searching to find Patsy Sweeney, who had just returned from Beaver to a leaking roof. We chatted. When he found we had had no food, he got on the phone. The Bonner sisters, who also own the ferry, opened their lunch-and-snooker shop to feed us good

sandwiches with tea just in time to make the return ferry. It was unthinkable that we leave the island “without a bite to eat.” (Since we live on Bonner's Landing, it was appropriate to meet the Bonners.)

One thing was certain: the Aranmore folks really value the Beaver Island connection.

I took a copy of the study of our state shoreline lands. The contrast of BI forest and Aranmore lack of green was noted, especially in the aerial photos. All of northwest Donegal is tough coun-

try, and Aranmore an extreme. With fishing gone, the economy is marginal: some tourism despite the isolation, vacation and retirement cottages, and returnees who worked elsewhere, including in the USA, are pretty much what is left to bring in Euros. There are also EU and Irish subsidies for rural, low-income areas.

It was fun, somewhat surprising, and well worth the detour. We hope others can make the trip with a car rental and lots of courage driving the narrow twisting roads without shoulders.



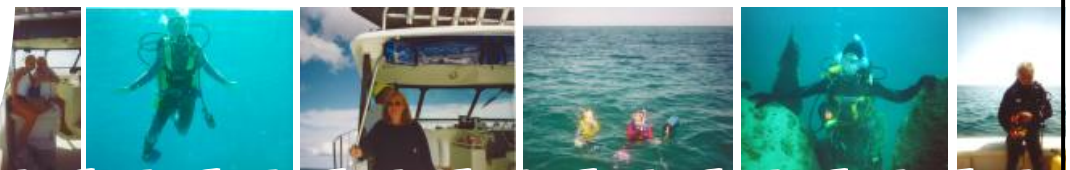
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## Read A Good Book Lately?

*A new occasional feature contributed by Arnie Rich, who writes:*

Reading history is the best way to understand how we arrived where we are. Last winter I enjoyed a marvelous sampling of what is currently available, of which I would like to make a few suggestions for your consideration. The following is nonfiction:

*Genghis Khan and the Making of the Modern World*, by Jack Weatherford. Chaucer mentions Gen-

ghis Khan in "The Squire's Tale," one of *Canterbury Tales*: "This noble king was called Genghis Khan, who in his time was of so great renown that there was no region with so excellent a lord in all things." There is much new information in Weatherford's book on the Great Mongol Empire (1206-1345), up to the time of the plagues of Europe, Asia, and Africa, which decreased the world's population from 450,000,000 to 350,000,000. This well-written volume

removes many of the stereotypes of the "Golden Horde." Never in the history of the world did so few govern so many so well. Weatherford makes a good case for this empire doing more to initiate the Renaissance and the "Age of Exploration" than any other factor. If you like history, this is must reading. The author personally walked over many of the paths traveled by this conqueror of millions. You'll be amazed at what they did.

## Thomas Graham 1918 – 2004

Dr. Thomas Frank Graham Sr., 86, of Harbor Springs and Donegal Bay, passed away Nov. 14, 2004, at Northern Michigan Hospital surrounded by his children and wife.

Dr. Graham was born Oct. 9, 1918, in Harbor Springs, the son of Frank Archie and Fern Klark Graham. He grew up in Harbor Springs and attended Harbor Springs High School, Western Michigan University and received his DDS from the University of Michigan. He was married to Betty Stiansen for 43 years. Together, they raised five children, Peter, Thomas Jr. (Trisha), Steve, Jeff and Liz (Greg). Betty preceded him in death in 1983 and Steve in 2002. He married Maryln Goble in 1985 and she

survives him. He is also survived by three stepchildren, Rebecca (Greg) Racette, Corinthia (Kent) Goble and John (Tracy) Goble, along with 15 grandchildren, Peter Jr., Terri, Eric, Nancy, Steve Jr., Scott, Susan, James, Sara, Jared, Nathan, Tom III, Sarah, Reid and Olivia; and four great-grandchildren, Caroline, Laura, Sophia and Lily.

From 1943 to 1945, Dr. Graham was an officer in the U.S. Navy and served overseas in the Philippines. He was a member of the Michigan Dental Association, the First Presbyterian Church of Harbor Springs, the Kiwanis Club of Harbor Springs, the Harbor Springs Harbor Commission and Northern Michigan Stamp and Coin Club. He served on the

Harbor Springs Library Board, as past commodore of the Little Traverse Yacht Club, commander of the American Legion in Harbor Springs and founding member of the Harbor Highlands (now Boyne Highlands) ski area.

A sailing enthusiast, he enjoyed both cruising and racing, as well as avidly collecting stamps playing bridge. He traveled extensively, and was known for telling colorful jokes. He could regularly be seen at many high school athletic games. Tom will be remembered as a happy person, always ready to chat and exchange a laugh.

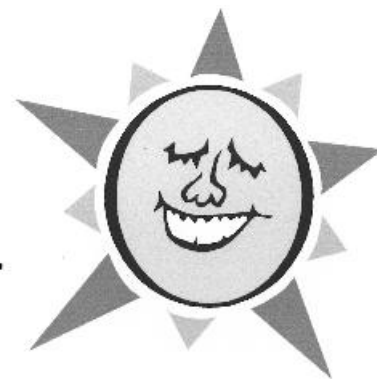
A long time summer visitor to Beaver Island, he enjoyed his Donegal Bay home.

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## Susan Waskul 1957 – 2004

Susan Waskul entered heaven on November 20, 2004 following a long battle with cancer. She was the granddaughter of Frank and Grace Nackerman of Beaver Island and spent many summer vacations on the Island.

Susan is survived by her husband, Daniel and children; Jeffrey, Christopher, Andrew and Lauren. Also surviving are her parents Richard and Ellen Verduyn and siblings; Kevin (Maureen), David (Melissa), Brian (Kim) and Bruce (Molly) Verduyn.



She was the proud and loving aunt of Kelly, Dristin, Kasey, Nicolas, Claire and Jenna.

Funeral services were at 10 a.m. at St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Church, 1087 East Gardenia, Madison Heights, Michigan. Interment was at Holy Cross Cemetery, Beaver Island. Susan's family has requested that in lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America or to the Holy Cross Cemetery Fund.

## Another Serviceman

With regard to the WTC article in the October *Beacon*, Jeremy Bearss' name was missing from the list of Island-related members currently serving in the Armed Forces. His parents

are very proud of their son: Capt. Jeremy J. Bearss, DVM, U. S. Army, Northern European Veterinary Detachment, Hanau, Germany; son of John and Carole Bearss.

## And Another

Sergeant First Class John Carey, a frequent visitor to his father's pheasant preserve on Sloptown Road, was recently awarded the Bronze Star medal for meritorious service during combat operations as the Medical Platoon Sergeant for the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division (air assault) from March 19 to July 31, 2003,

in Iraq. Sergeant Carey's actions during Operation Iraqi Freedom "contributed enormously to the success of the Division's operations as the Screaming Eagles liberated three major cities and cleared South Baghdad, Mosul, and Haditha, covering over 1,200 kilometers during the course of the campaign."

## Thanks

As my term as prosecutor comes to a close, I'd like to take this opportunity to address the citizens of Charlevoix County. Put simply, it has been a pleasure to serve you. While a prosecutor is not always in a position to make friends, I value the friends I have made among the law enforcement community and I particularly value the friendships that I have developed with the victims I have been able to assist during their time of grief and recovery.

I want to thank the judges, the county commissioners and other county employees with whom I have had the pleasure to work with for the last 11 years, and, of course I want to thank my excellent staff who, as in any successful office, are the back bone of the team.

I also want to thank those citizens who supported me and voted for me during my recent campaign. All of my campaign volunteers have my deepest gratitude as well.

And finally to my successor I offer my assistance in providing a smooth transition and to all of the citizens of Charlevoix County I wish you the best. May we all continue to enjoy the gifts that are provided to us by living and working in this beautiful county.

—Mary Beth Kur



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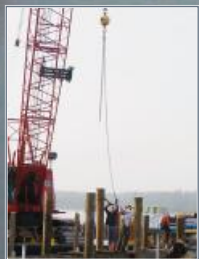
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## “Mackinaw” may become a Museum

The town of Cheboygan, located just east of the Big Mack Bridge, is planning to procure the U. S. Coast Guard Cutter *Mackinaw*, built in 1944 (and used recently to bring Christmas trees to Chicago), and set it up as an Icebreaker Museum. A group has just formed to promote this idea, and intends to begin raising money to move the 290' 5,250-ton vessel onto a city-owned site in the Doyle Recreation Area. With any luck, the group announced, the ship, one of the oldest cutters still in service, would be in place (and equipped to operate as a B & B as well as a museum) sometime after it is decommissioned in 2006.

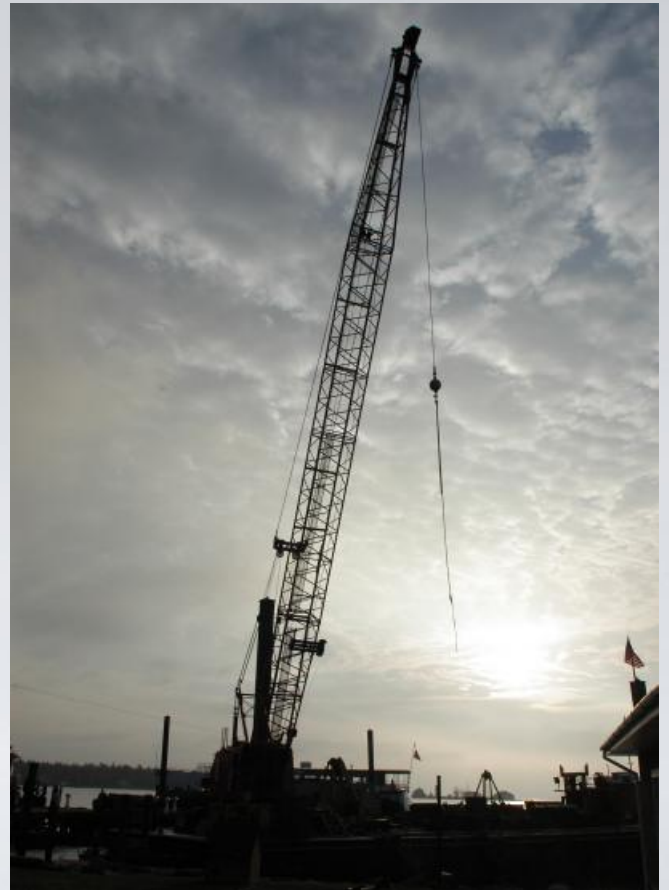




## Tribes Gather to Protect Lakes

Representatives from over 75 Native Tribes from America and Canada gathered at Sault Ste. Marie in late November to develop a unified approach to having their cautionary voice heard in discussions involving water distribution from the Great Lakes. Eight states and two Canadian provinces agreed in 2001 to work together to protect this valuable resource from being diverted to outside the Great Lakes' basin. Frank Ettawageshik, former pottery teacher at the Beaver Island Community School, presenter during Museum Week, and current chairman of the Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians, based in Harbor Springs, suggested that if the Tribes were not involved, the agreement would be lacking a vital part. He agreed with the general message: "We have a responsibility as caretaker of the Lakes, the waterways, and the land. Excluding the Tribes from the process ignores constitutional and treaty considerations."

In July a Great Lakes Charter Annex Agreement was signed as a system for controlling this water. The staff of the Council of Great Lakes Governors said they will consult the Tribes before any decision is made regarding the approval of any proposal involving the release of this water, but the Tribal representatives wished they had been consulted before the Annex Agreement was created. After all, they have spent two thousand years living in harmony with nature, and we can benefit from their experience.



## Yacht Dock Rebuild Progressing

The contractor rebuilding the Yacht Dock, Great Lakes Dock & Materials, made up for getting a late start with well-trained men, tight organization, and excellent equipment—including a "vibro" that can stick a 40' piling 20' into the lake bottom in under 10 minutes. Consequently the job is nearing completion, and should be done before the freeze.



## Another Book, Another Reviewer by Frank Solle

Every now and then I finally quit passing by a book, pick it up, have a hard time putting it down, then wonder why I didn't just read it in the first place so many years ago. I'm sure many readers have done the same.

Well, it's happened again, this time with Kent Haruf's wonderful tale of small town life, *Plainsong*, published in 1999.

I'd read good things about the book; it was, after all, a finalist for the National Book Award. I'd picked it up and thumbed through it numerous times in numerous bookstores. Yet it just didn't click.

Then, on a recent trip to Traverse City, I noticed Haruf had released a sequel titled *Eventide*. Hmm, I thought to myself, perhaps it is time to give *Plainsong* its due. Now I can admit, in one word, not its due, but it's overdue.

This is one well-written book. One intriguing book. One very real book. And therein lies its strength. Haruf writes, as the title implies, a plain song. A plain story. In plain English. His conversational tone is reminiscent of Leif Enger's *Peace Like a River* or Richard Russo's *Empire Falls*. It's as though

he's right there with you, telling the story over a steamy cup of coffee.

And it is such a straight forward style that lends the story its powerful sense of realism. Haruf writes of real life situations. Real life problems. Real life struggles. Real life.

In this case, real life takes place in Holt, Colorado. There is a 17-year-old girl pregnant from a summer fling. A school teacher she turns to for help after her mother locks her out of the house. An unusual solution to that dilemma is presented in the form of a pair of older brothers who have done nothing but ranch their entire lives. There is another school teacher left to raise two young boys after his wife leaves town as she battles depression, and the boys' battle of understanding the departure of their mother. As I said, this is no fairy tale, this is real stuff.

And through it all Haruf deals with these everyday problems in an engaging manner. Despite the struggles the characters face on nearly every page, *Plainsong* is not a depressing read. On the contrary, it is, eventually, uplifting. The only drawback, the only nit to pick that I can see, is the distracting lack of

quotation marks around the dialog. It may lend itself to the bucolic nature of the story, to the laid back style and sense of rural life, but it also lends itself at times to a difficulty in following who is saying what, and when. Perhaps I'm just old school. But when a story is this compelling, why take anything away? The best thing, if you haven't already done so, is to take *Plainsong* out for a read. You won't be disappointed.

## Freighter Aground

At the end of November a large freighter carrying over 16,000 tons of pig iron from Brazil (having finished loading on November 10<sup>th</sup>) ran aground in 23' of water to the west of us, at the Michigan/Wisconsin border. The Coast Guard, wanting to know if the problem was mechanical or due to human error, immediately began administering drug and alcohol tests to the officers.

The next day, a small barge being towed to St. Ignace for repairs suddenly began filling with water, and sank before anyone could think of what to do. This was a month when the gales of November lived up to their reputation.

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## A Toothpick Bridge by Dianne Litzenburger



Tensions ran high as fifth and sixth grade teacher Donna Stambaugh added weights to stress a toothpick bridge made by the students for a math project.

The recent hurricanes in Florida had a direct hit on a project undertaken by fifth and sixth graders at Beaver Island Community School.

As part of a recent math activity in Donna Stambaugh's class, students formed construction companies and assigned duties within the cooperative learning group. After studying ancient and modern bridge designs, each group was assigned to design and build a bridge that would meet certain specifications. They were given a budget of \$1.5 million to build a bridge that could withstand the specified weight load.

And that's when the impact of the hurricanes was felt.

Students had to fill out purchase forms, write checks, and balance their accounts daily as the building progressed and they purchased their building supplies—toothpicks—from Mrs. Stambaugh's Lumber Company.

As with all "real life" construction projects, problems arose. With the hurricanes repeatedly hitting Florida, the price of lumber (the toothpicks) soared. Some groups ran out of money prematurely and couldn't purchase the volume of toothpicks they originally hoped to

buy and use. And Mrs. Stambaugh began to suspect she'd get rich from this, maybe take an early retirement.

The class activity culminated in a "strongest bridge contest" when each bridge was stressed to the breaking point. Math continued during this exciting time, Stambaugh explained, because students needed to add up the loads used to stress the bridge.

All the fifth and sixth graders experienced great pride in their completed projects. Student evaluations of the project included descriptions such as "awesome" and "I loved it."



One youngster can't control her enthusiasm as the bridge her team built withstands another weight added by Donna Stambaugh!

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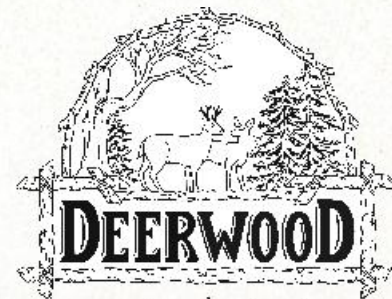
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## Tuna Tuna Tuna by Heidi Conner

Many Beaver Island residents and visitors (73, two fewer than Friday's show) took advantage of their last chance to see the Emerald Isle Repertory Theatre's final presentation of *A Tuna Christmas*. The EIR is a fledgling Beaver Island not-for-profit entity, and many folks were unclear about what they might see, debating the ticket price before the show. But upon entering Holy Cross Hall, the first impression was one of impressive organization. Next to me in the audience was a lovely lady who said she was seeing the show a second time—it was that good—and I should be properly prepared to laugh out loud.

After a brief introduction of the

EIR and its ambitions, Kyle Barnett and Brian Porter launched into their comic performances. Their high degree of professionalism put the next few hours squarely into Beaver Island's highly-variegated history as a rare pinnacle of comedic relief.

The curtains never opened or closed, making the entire stage a constantly shifting screen. The characters are divided

"Do we not dwell in the gallery of our God?... Are we not encircled by artistry? Sunsets burning. Waves billowing... All around us miracles pop like fireflies - souls are touched, hearts are changed, and ..."

A small coffee shop in the middle of nowhere on Beaver Island had a very successful first summer!

Thank you for your business, your friendship, your laughter. May you be blessed with a wonderful Christmas!

Looking forward to seeing all of you again next summer, 2005.

Dale & Terry Keyes,  
Proprietors, Paradise Bay Coffee Shop

\* Taken from *Traveling Light* by Max Lucado

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between the two actors, and brought to life by the creative ingenuity of the EIR. Through rapid costume changes and perfectly-intoned lines, Barnett and Porter evoked an entire town of eccentric and garish citizens. Transitions between the many roles were so quick and smooth that the performance maintained a perfect continuity. The backstage crew did a fantastic job as well, the audio and



lighting were excellent, and the special effects very good. Everyone shared this reaction: Beaver Island has hit the big time.

Afterwards the performers joined the crowd for autographs and conversation. Everyone was in a cheery mood, knowing that no matter what befalls us for Christmas on Beaver, it's got to be better than the poor folks in Tuna, Texas experienced.

So bring on the holidays; everyone—including those who debated the ticket price before coming inside—agreed that this show was worth every penny. A Beaver Island Blessing to you, EIR, and I wish you many happy encores.



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## Health Center Meeting

The BIRHC held a very positive meeting on November 6<sup>th</sup>, with 11 Board members and 14 observers attending. Although the amount spent for "contract services" in the previous year was higher than budgeted (by \$14k) because of legal expenses, the financial report was promising. A lot of expenses were one-timers due to the move, so a better picture was expected for the next year. Accounts receivables were okay, and more Islanders (6%) were using the facility. The Endowment Fund was growing nicely, thanks to Joe Reed and Bill McDonough; it was expected to soon be at \$700k, half-way to its First Stage goal.

Once again the annual appeal was about to be mailed, this time to 2,200 people, but since many of them had already made significant donations, this year's results were not expected to be as good as in previous years.

Some of the excess flu shots that came to the Island were sent to Petoskey, which had not received any. Joy Green mentioned that Charlevoix had also not received any.

The many people who helped the mammogram bus come to Beaver Island again this year were thanked; 45 women were tested this year, up from last year's 42.

The health care providers are now carrying cell phones.

When it was announced that an audiometer was on its way, Dr. Grassmich wondered if the BIRHC could use a cholesterol-testing machine. He donated a digital baby scale—and the Health Center's old scale, in which so many Island-born babies were briefly cradled, was donated to the Historical Society.

December 6<sup>th</sup> was chosen as a date to throw a party for the new practitioner, Connie Harris, and her husband.

The Board is working on a "quality assurance" program. A draft of an "employee procedures handbook" was being studied.

Angel Welke asked Donna Kubic, the manager, if any changes had resulted from the survey. She said because of the high interest, an exercise program might be initiated. There was a 57% return rate for the survey.

The new draft of the proposed by-laws had come back from the attorneys, but had not yet been reviewed.

A claim for damages from the air-conditioner-instigated flooding was ready to be submitted to the insurance company for \$29,160—and the expectation was that it would be paid in full. If so, it would pay for replacing some carpet, repairing and repainting some

walls, replacing some overhead lights, replacing the air conditioner subassembly's frozen coils, and replacing a few calculators and a bulletin board. This problem was said to have occurred because the architect assumed things that were not true. He suggested a \$15,000 fix to prevent this happening again (by installing 6 automatic resets), but the Board thought a system involving lights and buzzers and a manual reset could be done for much less. The Foundation that paid for the paving of the BIRHC lot had donated \$40,000, but the work only came to \$33,125. It was asked if the surplus could be used to fix the air conditioners, and it said yes.

Meetings were set for the following year; the Annual Meeting will be held on January 22<sup>nd</sup>, where attrition and reelection will bring the total Board members down to 11—as is desired. The departing Peaine representative, Dr. Paul Nelson, who has served for 12 years, issued a warning for his replacement: it will be tricky to advocate for the BIRHC and for the good of the Township, because these two entities do not always have the same agenda. The new rep will have to remember that he will first be representing the interests of the township. He was thanked for his long and able service.



*Holiday Dinner at Nina's Restaurant*

**December 4<sup>th</sup>.**

*Dinner includes: Shrimp Cocktail Appetizer, Beef Wellington Entree, salad, vegetable and dessert, all for \$29.95.*

*Please call 448-2396  
for reservations.*

*New Years Dinner at Nina's Restaurant*

**December 31<sup>st</sup>.**

*Dinner includes: Portabella mushroom appetizer, Filet mignon and Prawns entree, salad, vegetable and dessert and glass of champagne, all for \$34.00.*

*Please call 448-2396 for reservations.*



## Statement of Nondiscrimination

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The person responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination compliance efforts is Charlene Burnison, General Manager - Sales and Service. Any individual, or specific class of individuals, who feels that this organi-

zation has subjected them to discrimination may obtain further information about the statutes and regulations listed above from and/or file a written complaint with this organization; or the Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250; or the Administrator, Rural Utilities Service, Washington, D.C. 20250. Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discrimination. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible.

## Beaver Island Rural Health Centers Solicits Board Applicants

The Beaver Island Rural Health Center Board revised and amended its bylaws, reducing the maximum size of the Board to eleven, including the two township representatives. Those whose terms will end at the next Annual Meeting on January 22, 2005, include Joe Reed, whose previous term was extended for one year; Paul Nelson, who is retiring after serving faithfully for 12 years as Peaine Township representative; and Angel LeFever-Welke and Eula Thomas, both of whom were filling unexpired terms. Due to size limits imposed by the new bylaws, there will be a maximum of three vacancies—one of which will have to be a Peaine representative. Those eligible for renewal will also be invited to apply. In addition, the Board invites applications and suggestions for candidates from the public.

The Board policy approved in August, 2003, cites the following as preferred qualities for candidates:

BIRHC seeks men and women who will represent and support the best interests of the community in all its diversity as well as be faithful advocates for the Health Center. The Board seeks individuals who will:

- Be champions for BIRHC: Support Board actions in public and in private; exercise discretion when discussing unresolved issues; honor confidentiality about all personnel matters; bring relevant facts to the Board from the community that will help inform the decision-making process.
- Support BIRHC fund-raising activities: Attend special events, sell tickets, and encourage others to do the same; make a personal contribution to the annual fund; help identify, encourage and, when asked, help solicit prospective donors.
- Contribute time and talents: Prepare for monthly Board meetings by reading preparatory materials in advance; attend meetings in person whenever possible or by speakerphone if necessary; actively participate in the work of at least one committee; contribute knowledge and expertise to the work of the Board and organization; actively participate in planning

retreats, educational workshops, and other Board development opportunities.

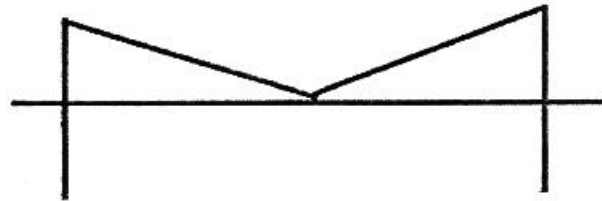
- Avoid conflict of interest: Disclose any potential conflict of interest at the earliest possible opportunity. Abstain from voting in cases where personal interest may be perceived as affecting a decision or is in conflict with the best interests of the organization.
- Be a team player: Volunteer to perform a fair share of the Board's work; be responsible for completing assignments on time to the best of your

ability; be open-minded in considering the opinions and suggestions of others; and focus on the issues, not on personalities.

Letters of interest should be sent to Connie Wojan, President of the BIRHC Board of Directors, c/o BIRHC, 37304 King's Highway, Beaver Island, 49782 by January 10<sup>th</sup>.

Candidates will be interviewed before, and a slate presented at, the Annual Meeting. For more information, please call Connie Wojan at (231) 448-2379.

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Beaver Island celebrated the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month with two stirring ceremonies, one at the School and the other at the church's plaque across the street, both assisted by the AmVets.

The School's festivities included a student Color Guard bringing and raising an American Flag as the entire student body and several adults looked on. The morning opened with a song by

Crystal and Sherri Timsak, included a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance, a singing of our National Anthem, and a quick talk by Principal Kitty McNamara about the importance of what veterans have done, and concluded with a song by Bailey McDonough.

Across the street Alvin LaFreniere talked about the eight Beaver Islanders who gave their lives: Thomas Hawkins from the Civil War, Hubert Green and

Emmett Burke from WWI, Edward Wojan, Robert Belfy, and James Near from WWII, and Robert Keshik of High Island in the Korean War. Reverend Howard Davis gave the benediction, and Bob Hoogendoorn played Taps, but only after reminding the audience that some of the promises made to servicemen had not been kept, and asking them to use whatever influence they had to get these promises kept.

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## Fire Engine Arrives




On a bright winter day something everyone south of Four Corners has been waiting for arrived—the new Fritz Steinbach commemorating Fire Truck. A number of people were there to watch it roll out of the belly of the *Emerald Isle*, driven by long-time Island Fire Chief Tim McDonough, who had gone over to meet it. For anyone who's ever used the phrase “all the bells and whistles”: *you ain't seen nothing yet, until*

*you've seen the Island's new Fire Truck.* This is such a fancy contraption that a few people were worried that some of our highly-trained Volunteer Firemen would set off smoke generators in the Island's far-flung reaches, just to have a chance to take it out for a ride. Sure, it has a top speed of sixty-five, but on our roads that's equivalent to a Ferrari going all out down the Autobahn.

## Lights on the Harbor





Once the Thanksgiving toms were picked clean, Island residents devoted themselves to decorating their home and yard for Christmas. John and Carol Runberg took a different approach. Since their home is in the woods, they decided to hang their lights on their new SeaRay 300 instead, and cruise Paradise Bay at dusk. When the lights were too much for the inverter, the tree had to be powered by a carry-on generator.






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## One Hundred Years Ago by Joyce Bartels

*Charlevoix Sentinel* December 1, 1904 Local News: "All the tugs are back from the Beaver Island spawn fishing and are laid up until the open season again December 15<sup>th</sup>, when fishing will boom again as long as the lake is open."

Lansing Special: "Atty. Gen. Blair is giving a hearing today on the request of the Wolverine Fish Co. of Detroit, in which he confessed to the use of his name in quo warrant to forfeit the charter of A. Booth & Co., of Chicago, on grounds that they have bought up all of the wholesale fish houses in Michigan and that their business is being conducted in violation of the anti-trust law. Booth & Co. deny the charge and claim that the court has repeatedly held that it is not violating the anti-trust laws."

*Charlevoix Sentinel* December 8, 1904 Local News: "A 9 ½ pound girl at the home of Dr. A. M. Wilkinson at St. James."

"The tug *Martin* has been 'toting' the Game Warden around these parts."

"Ed Bedford, the 'No. 1' man of the Point Betsey life saving crew, is here visiting relatives and friends. Ed reports 'Capt. Tip' is well, and is as husky as he was in the '70s."

"Patrick McCann, brother of James McCann of St. James, is very ill at St. Ignace, with no hope of recovery. Mr.

McCann spends his summers at St. James, and is well known to Charlevoix people who visit the Island."

*Charlevoix Sentinel* December 15, 1904 Local News: "Mike McCann of St. James was here over Sunday."

"We erred last week in stating that the tug *Martin* was out with the game and fish warden. The *Martin* had the contract for landing the lightkeepers and has been picking them up."

"John P. Maloney, of the Chicago office of the N. M. Transportation Co. came over from the Beavers Monday on his way to Chicago."

"Navigation still lingers. The *Beaver* will, probably, make her Beaver Island runs all this month."

Just Casual Observations - "It looks as if a daily mail for Beaver Island is not very far distant. Industrial conditions there, in the way of lumbering, have increased the population of the Island greatly; but the fact is, this transient, floating population will be followed by permanent occupants of the excellent land that the lumbermen are now clearing up. There is no question that the lands will be colonized, and Peaine and St. James townships will constitute one of the most prosperous agricultural sections of Charlevoix County. Next fall we shall have telephone communi-

tion with the Island. This will wonderfully stimulate resort business, and real estate values about the harbor. We think the time is near when a daily mail to the Island during the season of navigation (and that means nearly nine months) will be justified."

*Charlevoix Sentinel* December 22, 1904 Local News "Rev. J. W. Vickers went to the Beavers Tuesday, and expects to return today or tomorrow."

"Superintendent Cross reports that farmers are coming daily in good numbers and making pea-raising contracts. The acreage on Beaver Island will be fully as great, if not greater than last year. Rev. A. F. Zugelder is representing the Ferry Co. there under the direction of Mr. Cross. There is no doubt whatever that the crop next year will fully reach the proposed increased capacity of the warehouse."

*Charlevoix Sentinel* December 29, 1904 Local News: "The steamer *Beaver*, on her Monday trip, did not get nearer than a mile of Beaver harbor, and the mail was transferred on the ice. It is expected that a good southwest or northwest wind will break up the ice, and Capt. Campbell expects to get in at least once more, although there is very little probability of making any more trips after this week."



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## BICS Finances Improving

Positive factors have come together recently that impact the Beaver Island Community School's ability to fund maintenance, staffing, and capital needs and to look at the district's future needs.

First, the Major Maintenance fund (or sinking fund) has allowed the board to replace aging furnaces, windows, and roof shingles. The board might use funds from this to purchase land from Edward and Mary Palmer, connected to the school property on the south side and running behind the Palmer house and the Mary Bert McDonough house. This is a purchase for the future; the board has no immediate plans for school expansion.

Secondly, this year's State School Aid Act included Section 22d funds designated to bring five geographically isolated school districts up to "essential staffing" levels and to cover other capital needs because regardless of the number of students in a district, a certain level of staffing is necessary to provide a K-12 education. The board of education is obligated to using these funds to reach or maintain staffing needs. Our staffing areas furthest from those the state identified are: high school faculty (social studies); special ed and counseling/student support. Providing more technology support and acquiring a school vehicle are other needs we feel are important.

## Violet McCafferty Custer

On September 11<sup>th</sup> Island-born Violet McCafferty Custer celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday with friends and family in St. Petersburg, Florida. The champagne flowed and the Irish tunes played as she sat in her wheelchair or waltzed around the floor with her regal hand wave to all.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> of 11 children born to Francie and Nellie McCafferty in their Bwaver Island home on Sloptown Road, she shared lots of memories with her baby brother Peter, her only remaining sibling—such as about teaching school on High Island (the year before Lucille Gillespie), trapping, crossing the ice to Cross Village, and going to school at Sunnyside on the King's Highway—and had a crystal-clear recollection of every moment.

At her birthday she was presented the Key to St. Pete, and received letters from the President and the Governor (she had a great love of politics, possibly inherited from her grandfather, St. James Supervisor Sam Dunleavy, and was very active.) Her brother Peter visited her daily; she was still the one consulted by her family whenever they had a problem. Known for her great wisdom and common sense, she never complained; her positive attitude was an inspiration to all those she meets.

Violet McCafferty was born the



fourteenth day of September 1904, to Francis and Nellie McCafferty on their farm. At the age of sixteen, she graduated with three others in her class, then went off to a school on the mainland, called Normal School in Charlevoix.

After one year she received her teaching certificate. Her first job was on a nearby island teaching the American Indians in a one room school—all through the eight grades, there were about twenty Indians in the school. She later moved to Chicago, where she was a secretary for an international bakery.

When she was at home for Christmas she returned to the mainland, with the closest point of land an Indian settle-

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ment called Cross Village. When Violet was about to leave the Island, her cousin, Carl Left, who happened to be sick the day she was leaving, lent his horse Star to her older brother and another man. They got Carl's horse and cutter to take the mail from the Island to the mainland; Violet was the only passenger. She had on a big sheepskin coat that belonged to her cousin, plus blankets and heated bricks at Violet's feet to keep her warm.

Well, they were clipping along pretty good when the horse stepped in a crack in the cracked ice, and broke his leg. They had to put the horse out of its misery, and start walking. They had six or seven miles to go when the Indians knew something was wrong because the horse could find his own way, as he carried the mail every week. The Indians started out with their horses to look for them. They finally found them and took them and the mail to the Village. They were on land about an hour when a blizzard came up; without the Indians, it could have been a real disaster.

In 1930, while home for a visit, Violet met her husband to be, James Custer. He was vacationing on Beaver Island from Detroit, Michigan. They fell in love and were married the next year.

They lived in Detroit several years, then moved to the Philadelphia area, where her husband was the President of the *Automotive Aeronautical Engineers*, a monthly paper consisting of several hundred pages.

They moved to Saint Petersburg in 1957, and bought an apartment complex at Seventh Street and Seventh Avenue. They named it the Topaz Apartments. Her husband Jim died over 20 years ago and Violet took over running the apartments until she moved into the Princess Martha Hotel three years ago.

Violet had a son, James, who passed away two years ago.

Violet also has two granddaughters, Dawn, Dunedin, Florida and Cindy of Jacksonville and Tallahassee. Cindy has two children, Kurt and Mary Shannon. She also has, daughter-in-law Mary of New Jersey, plus a brother Peter of St. Petersburg and Ashtabula, Ohio and several nieces and nephews.

Violet was very active in the Republican Party both in St. Petersburg and also in Upper Darby, Pennsylvania.

Violet McCafferty Custer passed away Thursday, October 14, 2004, one month after her 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday. She was truly a "special person" and will be greatly missed by all.

## Thanks

To all our friends and neighbors. We wish to thank you for the kind words expressed to us, and for the cards sent, acknowledging the recent loss of Ray's brother, Leonard Matela. Your kindness and sympathy are greatly appreciated. —Ray and Grace Matela

## Happy Holidays

With 2004 drawing to a close, it seems like a good time to say thank you. First, thank you very much to all of our readers, whose positive comments make publishing the *Beacon* so much fun. We appreciate each and every one of you who make the *Beacon* possible. Thanks to all the businesses who advertise in the *Beacon*, making it financially possible—please make sure to give them your business whenever possible and tell them you saw their ad in the *Beacon*! Thank you especially to all who contribute stories, photos, and ideas to the *Beacon*—and to those who pick up the phone or send an email when they know of an event we should cover. Finally, thanks to the Boat Company and Island Airways for hauling our paper, and to IKON, Traverse City, for providing excellent printing equipment and service. We wish you all a very very Happy Holiday Season from the *Beacon*!



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## Arrivals

Dustin Crandall and Jessica McCafferty (at CMU) now have a son, Andrew Jacob Crandall, born on November 10<sup>th</sup> in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan. He weighed eight pounds and six ounces, soaking wet. The grandparents are Steve and Yvonne Crandall of Beaver Island, and John McCafferty of Beaver Island and Gena Cross of Charlevoix, and his great-grandparents are Dorothy Crandall of Mason, Michigan, Madonna McCafferty of Beaver Island, and Joan and Larry Delamater of Six Lakes, Michigan.

## New Pollutant found in Lake Michigan

In a new three-year study by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, traces of a flame retardant were found in sediment hundreds of feet below the surface of Lake Michigan. This PBDE is also showing up all around the world, although its presence in the Great Lakes' basin's food chain sends a particular warning because of how fish and other animals absorb this kind of dangerous chemical. The only good news to come from this study is that this flame retardant has been eliminated from most of its previous uses.

## New Cellular Antenna in Town

Cellular One from Dobson Cellular Systems has installed a new cellular antenna in town to extend the coverage of the existing mid-Island highway tower location. The original voice-only plan was extended and the new site currently has voice, GPRS (to support data) and soon will have edge (for faster speed for the Internet.) "Residents of Beaver Island and surrounding areas will be able to use GSM data services," Jim Licko, a Cellular One representative, stated, "which give wireless customers the ability to send and receive photos from a wireless handset, downloadable games, and ring-tones and cellular Internet access." Cellular One is located in Petoskey and Charlevoix. For more information on their services, visit [www.celloneusa.com](http://www.celloneusa.com). Thanks to James Carrow, Dobson, and Cellular One for taking such an interest in the Island.



## 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.

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## Chick Gallagher 1918 – 2004

Danford Daniel "Chick" Gallagher, 86, of Charlevoix, died November 21, 2004, at Charlevoix Area Hospital. Funeral service was on Wednesday, November 24 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Charlevoix. The Reverend Thomas Neis officiated, and burial was in St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery, Charlevoix.

Chick was born August 21, 1918, on Beaver Island, the son of Peter Owen and Vivian (Roddy) Gallagher. He graduated from Charlevoix High School in 1936 and went to the State Finals with the basketball team. He attended Alma College from 1940-41 and was a part of the varsity track, basketball and football teams. Chick served in the Army Air Corps as a Sergeant in WWII from 1942-45. He married Edna Novotny on August 18, 1947, in Charlevoix. Chick worked for the State Department of Transportation as bridge tender in Charlevoix for over 30 years, retiring January 14, 1984.

Chick attended St. Mary's Catholic Church in Charlevoix. He is survived by his wife Edna, daughters Mary C. (Steven) Wilson, of Charlevoix, Lilly (Joel) Donaldson of Petoskey, grandchildren Abbigail, Trevor and Corbin Donaldson, Stephan, Toby and Shawn Young, step-grandchildren Rex, Steven and Crystal, and 4 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by siblings Helen Phillips and Jim Gallagher.

## Thanks

Sincere thanks to the wonderful folks on Beaver Island for their prompt and tender attention to our Mom/Grandmother when she had to be airlifted to Charlevoix Hospital August 23. We want to thank Angel and Paul Welke, Dr. and Mrs. R. K. McFarland, the EMS team members, the airport staff, and everyone else who had a large or small role in making everything go as quickly and smoothly as possible. We've heard wonderful things about the caring people on the Island when it comes to an emergency, but did not have first hand knowledge until this incident. We are truly grateful to everyone involved! Annette is recovering at Boulder Park Terrace in Charlevoix.

—the Family of Annette Vertican



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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. 1 1/2 baths, TV/VCR, W/D, microwave, gas grill, all amenities.

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**HARBOR-AREA HOUSE FOR SALE:**

2-Story 2,688 sq. ft. house plus 2 car attached garage & full basement. 3 large bedrooms—master BR with private bath and walk-in closet, cathedral ceiling. 2 1/2 baths. 2 decks. Approximately 1-acre corner lot. Peekaboo view of the Harbor.

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**FOR RENT:**

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*Real Estate, For Rent:*

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**DONEGAL BAY** - 3 BR 2 bath Home; sleeps 6; many amenities. \$880 a week. Reduced rates for off-season. Phone (313) 885-7393, after 4:00 p.m.



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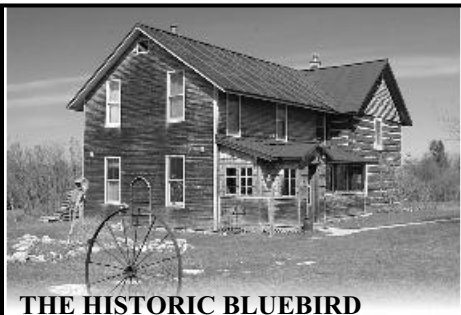
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