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The Christmas Cantata

School Program and Visits from Santa

The Way It Was: The Christmas Ship

On This Date

One Hundred Years Ago

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Beaver Beacon

the Island Monthly since 1955

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On This Date

Ten Years Ago

The January *Beacon* reported that St. James Township was preparing to go to court against the Charlevoix Road Commission, and had added another charge to the list: Bad Faith, for the CCRC not having fulfilled its promise to apply for a grant to cover the cost of repaving the King's Highway. Other roads received new names: Darkeytown Road became Barney's Lake Road, and Sloptown supposedly became Old Orchard Road—despite the objections of residents such as Sherri Timsak, who wrote to the editor to suggest keeping the old names and educating the public about what they mean.

E. B. Lange consulted with CMU about our Gypsy Moth and Birch Tree Disease problems.

The Boat Company made a presentation to St. James Township about establishing a Transportation Authority, which could apply for grants to fund the construction of a new ferry. The Township took action, adopting articles of incorporation for BITA and appointing Don Vyse, Kitty McNamara, Ken Taylor, Larry Malloy, and Vince Olach.

Bill Boelter wrote to the Editor to say that his occupation of the Island predates that of Murray and Wave Wanty (who were profiled last month:) Walt Wojan poured his slab in 1956, and he then built his own cabin. He flew here from Saginaw in his own plane, and wrote a book about it which is in our library: *610 trips to Beaver Island*. He flew more trips after the book came out.

Kitty McNamara made a suggestion about how to supervise young people and create appropriate entertainment opportunities. She challenged the parents to organize and divide up the year; 15 sets of parents could each take 3 weekends, sponsoring proper activities and opening their homes to the group of kids but staying out of the way.

Twenty Years Ago

The Beaver Island Fire Department selected a site for the Fire Hall: behind the public bathroom, where it in fact was built. Santa arrived on December 18th to pass out gifts to 72 kids under the age of 11 at the Shamrock Bar. The Civic Association began to plan a "Memorial to the Dead at Sea." The date for the Winters Games at Barney's Lake was set: February 12th.

Sherri Timsak shared a story she'd been told by her father about TVs early days: "We had one of the first 3 sets, so neighbors would come over to watch. One night my mother and dad and my brother Gene and I were watching a murder mystery with Peter Johnson, who lived nearby. A singer, referred to as a "canary," had been killed, and the gist of the show was to catch the killer. But before the end, the power went out—a not uncommon experience. We sat there in front of the lifeless set for awhile, speculating, but eventually we gave up. Peter went home, and Gene and I went to bed. But early the next morning, here's Peter pounding on the door. 'What d'you want so early?' Ma asked him. 'They caught that guy.' 'What guy?' 'The guy who killed the canary.' 'How d'you know, Peter?' 'They announced it on the radio just a few minutes ago, so I come right over to tell you.' 'On the radio? Peter, you darned fool! That was just a story last night. It wasn't real.'"

Sherri's sister Dawn contributed a poem, *The Sounds of Winter*, which included this: "Listen very carefully/you can hear the snowflakes fall/you can hear the whisper of the wind/you can hear the blue jays call.

You can hear the sounds of chain saws/as they cut the winter wood/Or the gentle sound of silence/which always sounds so good."

An article written by long-time occasional reporter Jacque LaFreniere announced the impending merger of Joe McPhillips and Bill

Welke to form Island Airways.

Thirty Years Ago

The January, 1973 *Beacon* opened with a little game news: there were more bunnies than bunny hunters, and Perry Gatliff had not yet had a chance to haul his shanty onto the ice because of the weather. Dick Burris had no such trouble at Geneserath, but had a problem of a different kind: using small perch as bait to fish for pike, things were going along fine until his bait bucket fell through his hole in the ice. Not one to ever give up, he simply got into his diving gear and went in after it.

Doc Christie presented a progress report on the proposed expansion of the Med Center. (The Med Center's Constitution provided for each Town Board to appoint two members to the Med Center Board, plus a member was chosen from the Civic Association and another from the Medical Auxiliary; these six then chose a seventh and final member.) The expansion plan provided five additional beds, two emergency rooms, and supporting facilities. At this point the Board was still seeking funds for construction.

Bob McGlocklin used the off-season to remodel the *Circle M*, expanding the bar and dining area.

Peter Johnson, a bachelor who spent many years on the lakes, passed away at age 93.

Bill Welke was appointed a year-around Deputy Sheriff by the Charlevoix County Sheriff's Department; formerly he was paid for full time work during the summer and part time the other 9 months--although he was always on call. (Bill, a true Renaissance man, was also named as President of the Civic Association.)

Forty Years Ago

The *Beacon* had 385 subscribers.

Skating on the glare ice in the Harbor was excellent, with a large bonfire built on the far edge of the designated area every night. (Brian

Gallagher recently recalled how as a kid he and two companions skated out of the harbor, and, pulled eastward by the fine ice, skated on and on; when they finally looked back, they discovered Beaver Island was farther away than the mainland.

Walker Hill and his wife left for India on a two-year assignment, but their daughters stayed behind; Mary to study at Antioch, and Ellen to take part in a Chicago Ice capades-style skating extravaganza.

Amaritta Ludwig, owner, with her husband, of the *Beaver Lodge*, and author of *Russian Doctor in Paradise*, passed away, as did Herbert Boyle and Mrs. William (Alice) Belfy, Erwin and Delbert's mother.

Barry Pischner became an officer in the Grand Rapids Furniture Designers' Association, which, among other things, donated books on design to libraries and awarded design scholarships to Kendall.

A number of professional coyote hunters descended on the Island and, together with a bevy of local men, began to chase down these annoying beasts. The pros had bagged 286 coyotes around Indian River, but in 3 days of tromping our trails only four wild animals were taken. As soon as there's fresh snow on the ground, they've vowed to return and try again. The Game Club gave Robert and Elaine Smith's son Steve a prize for having caught 1962's largest bass. The rabbits are running for cover, with the beagles of Milt Bennet, Perry Gatliff, Archie LaFreniere, and Karl Kuebler not far behind.

A campaign has been started to raise the estimated \$6,000 needed to build the Episcopal Church on property donated by Warren Townsend (former owner of High Island.) This log building will replace the old house in which services have been held since 1934. The Holy Cross Parish Hall was repainted with paint donated by the owner of the Kreuter Paint Company.



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Practice Makes Perfect: the Christmas Cantata

After much practice and hard work, the 35+ members of the Community Choir delivered two stunning performances of their Christmas Cantata on a Saturday and Sunday in early December. Beginning with Christmas songs by the 10-member children's choir, which was accompanied by Judy

Meister on the piano and Laraine Dawson on the organ and featured a Signé Thomas piano solo, the concert moved to instrumentals by Evie Folkening (substituting for Debbie Robert at the School), Joe Moore (who had to wear his boutonniere on his right to accommodate his violin), and Judy

Meister before unleashing the powerful composite sound of the Choir. Under the astute direction of Kathy Speck this group of voices blended and harmonized to present thrilling renditions of old and new favorites. With musical support from Mike and Rich Scripps, Marianne Weaver, Bob Hoogendorn,



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and Melissa Bailey contributed outstanding solos, although any of the other members of the Choir might have been selected to take the center podium with equally impressive results—they were all that good. When the program had run its course—breezing through perhaps fifteen numbers, the audience was too

enthralled to let the Choir leave until they had performed at least one more song. When all was said and done, the most common comment heard as the privileged guests filed out was, "It *can't* get any better than this!" One more reason why we're so lucky to be here.

The performance was dedicated to

two recent members of the Choir who were not present, Mel and Judy Bellamy. Perhaps the reason this was such a moving performance was that every member of the cast was doing their best to reach out to them with their music. If they were watching, we know they would have been proud.



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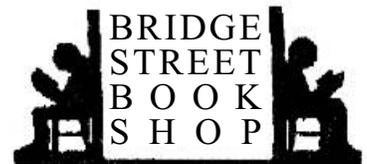
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Letters ... we get Letters!

Thanks to all the People on Beaver Island

On Sunday November 10th I arrived on Beaver Island about 4:30 after a 4-hour drive from Caledonia and a 2-hour boat ride from Charlevoix. My plan was to stay for about two weeks for hunting at my brother's place on the south end.

I was supposed to arrive at the cabin at the same time as my brother Mel Bellamy and his wife Judy, who were flying home from Missouri. I was the first to get there, so I unloaded my van.

This was about the 8th time of the Island for me, so I'd gotten to know quite a few of the Islanders.

When I went back into the cabin, the phone rang. It was Mel, who said they were in Wisconsin and should be on the Island in about two hours. That was the last time I heard his voice.

The next three days were like a living, walking nightmare. I know for a fact that if it were not for all of the people on the Island who stopped by or called, it would have been a whole lot worse. I had not realized Mel and Judy had so many good friends.

So I would like to thank each and every one of you for your thoughts,

prayers, and good deeds done during the time when the search was going on. I want to say a special thank you to Ken Gittersonke (Mel and Judy's neighbor) for being there with me through the worst of the travail, to Denny Cook (another good neighbor), who brought Ken and I a warm dinner, Sue and Don Haney for their hospitality during the catastrophe, Mark LaFreniere for his concerns and for temporarily taking the responsibility of Mel and Judy's cat, and to Bill Cashman for driving me to the airport when I left to name just a few. So thanks again, and may God bless all of you.

—Dale Bellamy

First Snow—time to Go

Another year in paradise over; had a fine time. Great weather, plenty of water (our flat-tailed friends to thank), the fall colors were spectacular.

The season was muted this year. Police protection was up, tourism down. The closing of the *Rectory* was a tragedy of Homeric proportions. Now it's the *Beachcomber's* turn. Can fudge be in its future? Is this the taming of Beaver Island?

On the positive side, the *Bite of Beaver* was tasty, and the new Peaine

Township road signs are looking good. The people proposing the World Trade Center memorial have honorable intentions, speaking as a New Yorker though; when I see that piece of the WTC it saddens me in the way a memorial to the victims of the Irish Potato Famine would sadden some of you.

I still hope for wolves and egg-rolls. Here's a new dream. The *Rectory* reopens as a pub, but the large dining room becomes a Dance Club. It would be good for the young folks.

Oh for spring, in the land of the living.

—Lucky

The Cantata was Excellent!

After hearing the Christmas Cantata: Bravo! Bravo! I have seen and heard many professional concerts and performers all over the country and this group was the best I've ever heard. I know all the hard work that went into this; as we left church every Sunday they came in and had hours of practice. I've talked to channel 9 & 10 about sending a video of their performance so others can have an opportunity to hear this exceptional music. Thank you Kathy and all the singers for the wonderful music.

—Pat Rowley



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Bill Welke 1922 - 2002

Bill passed away on December 7, 2002. He was born on June 28, 1922 in Detroit, the son of Elizabeth (Oberle) and William Welke. He graduated from Walled Lake High School and the Detroit Police Academy, and served two years in the United States Army Air Force. Bill also attended the Wilbur Wright trade school, where he trained as a machinist.

He worked at many occupations over the years, including as owner and chief pilot of Island Airways. Through the years Bill owned and operated contracting, excavating, well-drilling, and saw mill operations. In addition, he served as the Deputy Sheriff on Beaver Island and as a member of the Detroit Police Force.

Bill began flying in 1943 when he was 21 years old. His first landing strip was a 600' strip cut out of his fathers' wheat field. He was a talented flight instructor and enjoyed passing on his love of flying to his students. Bill was at his happiest surrounded by airplanes, people, and his dogs (most recently Marney,



Katie, and Kellie).

Bill was a longtime member of Holy Cross Catholic Church.

He is survived by his wife of 56 years Betty (Cutler) Welke and their five children and their spouses: Jean and Bruce Kinsley of Beaver Island; Paul Welke and Angela LeFevre of Beaver Island; Mark and Sue Welke of Marquette, Michigan; Carl and Laurie Welke of Tecumseh, Michigan; and Anne Welke and Bruce McPhilips of Charlevoix. He is also survived by his brothers and their wives: Robert and Sue Welke of Beaver Island; Donus and Dory Welke of Archbold, Ohio; and Charles and Catherine Welke of Beaverton, Michigan. Bill is also survived by many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, and nephews.

Memorial contributions may be directed to Beaver Island Emergency Services or the Beaver Island Rural Center c/o General Delivery, Beaver Island, Michigan 49782. Bill wished to be cremated. A memorial service will take place at Holy Cross Catholic Church in early 2003.

Body Assumed to be Island Woman

The body of a woman was discovered Saturday, December 7, by a resident walking his dog along the shoreline near the Cemex cement plant south of that city. He contacted the Charlevoix County authorities who have tentatively identified the body as that of a Beaver Island woman whose plane has been missing for the past month.

Sheriff George Lasater said that his department has turned over the remains to the county medical examiner's office and that an autopsy has been ordered to make a positive identification. For now, the body is assumed to be that of Judy Ellen Bellamy, 55, of Beaver Island.

Bellamy and her husband, Melvin, were returning to the Island after a trip. They were last seen fueling their plane in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. When their plane was reported missing, United States Coast Guard, Civil Air Patrol and many local pilots hunted the waters around the archipelago for clues but were unable to discover any sign of either the couple nor their plane. Melvin Bellamy's body and the plane have not been found as of yet.

Unfortunately, finding Judy's body did not shed light on this mystery.

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News from the Beaver Island Wildlife Club

The Beaver Island Wildlife Club held its annual meeting and election of officers on December 9, 2002 at the Peaine Twp. Hall. By unanimous vote the club elected officers for the year 2003. Jeff Powers will be the new president and Ivan Young, vice president. Harold Lounsberry and Lois Williams were reelected as treasurer and secretary respectively. Mark LaFreniere, Don Tritsch, Bob Banville, Pete LoDico, and Bob Bass were elected trustees. We are pleased to announce that we will now have a home for our meetings. We will meet once a month on the second Thursday of the month at the Fire Hall, starting January 9th.

We have had a busy year and look forward to one equally as busy and exciting. High on our list this year was the groundbreaking for a walleye-rearing pond. Beaver Island landowners have leased us the land for the pond. Once the pond is completed, rearing of walleye will be monitored and supervised by a graduate student from CMU. A wet September slowed construction, so we are running somewhat behind schedule but are pressing on



to completion. Our annual Hunters' Dinner was not well attended this year. Trying to second-guess when hunters will leave the Island left us serving fewer people when over 100 left on the boat earlier that day. But we still had good food, a good time, and renewed a lot of memberships. Mark LaFreniere won the Big Buck Contest with an eight-point that scored 97 on the Boone and Crockett method. We are once again prepared to supplement wild turkeys with corn through the winter months. Anyone locating a flock and wishing to feed them should contact Mark LaFreniere at 448-2220; he will even deliver the corn. Corn is for turkey feeding only and not for deer. Joe and Lois Williams have purchased a feeder approved by the DNR and the Wild Turkey Federation. If the feeder works out well, the club may consider the purchase of feeders for the 2004 season. We have begun to improve habitat for whitetail deer. One landowner gave us permission to plant rye on a 3-acre plot for critical feed in April. We appeal to all landowners to dedicate a small area for habitat improvement. Check with Alvin LaFreniere for ideas. We are investigating the possibility of DNR permits to do some forestry cutting this winter now that logging operations have ceased on the Island.

Whitetail deer harvest is down considerably since 2000 and 2001. The only records we have are of those deer taken off on the ferry. There were 295 in 2000, 300 in 2001, and only 170 in 2002. We now have two things in motion: a plan to encourage registration of all deer taken on the Island (watch for information on this) and an appeal to the DNR to help us manage the herd.

The DNR has announced that pike limits on Fox Lake and Lake Geneserath have been liberalized.

There is a five-fish daily limit and no size restriction on either lake.



We have been spared many things here that make our island unique. We have no skunks, possum, rats, porcupines, and poisonous snakes. We also don't have chronic wasting disease and TB in our healthy whitetail herd. We would like to keep it that way. Please don't bring wild animals and exotic pets to the Island that could escape into the wild and bring unwanted disease here.

We are aware some residents are concerned about the populations of coyotes and beaver. At this stage we are still collecting facts so we can make a decision based upon scientific material. —Lois Williams, secretary



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Winter Volunteers for Hospice and Report from Helping Hands

Many of our hospice volunteers have headed for warmer climates, but we still have many wonderful volunteers who will be here for the winter. We had our last meeting for the year and won't have another one until everyone gets back in the spring. Here's the list of winter volunteers: 1st contact person: Lois Williams (2475); 2nd contact person: Sandy LoDico (2004); Di Shoup (2068), Margaret Bass (2444), Karen Wirth (2266), and Pinky Harmon (2461) after February. Lois Rich (2644) after March. Joyce Runberg and Pat Rowley will be available 1st of May.

We want everyone to be aware that there are "care notes" at the medical center, compliments of the hospice. We have a special shelf at the library with books and videos. There is a loan closet at the Medical Center with helpful medical equipment that can be loaned out. We just got 2 new hospital beds. There are wheelchairs at the airport and boat dock, but we could really use some more if anyone wants to donate one. Thanks to everyone for the donations which allow us to continue with our work: Rosie Zajakowski, John and Pat Rowley in memory of John's sister. Holy Cross Parish, Bill McDonough who paid the boat freight to bring the new hospital

beds over, Joe and Marilyn Reed, and the Ruth Hirshery memorial Fund.

I want to end with something Bobbie Byrd and Ron wrote entitled AS I PREPARE TO SAY GOODBYE: "We've done all we can." the doctor sighed. "What happens now?" I thought. How can I tell family and friends that I'll soon have to say farewell? "In a hospital bed, with tubes protruding from every bodily orifice is not how I want my life to end," I heard myself complain. My nurse suggested Hospice care and arranged it with my doctor. I can stay home with family and LIVE until I die.

A team was formed to address our needs (care for bodies, spirits, minds) and I can still have some control because I'm a member of it too. I curl up in my favorite chair and even hug my dog while Hospice staff controls my pain. They're specialists at this. They support us through our tears and fears. They're not afraid to talk of dying. I feel their compassion in hugs and prayers. Some become like family. I'm thankful for their T.L.C. for me and for my loved ones. It's reassuring that they'll be there when it's my time to go. Hospice will help my family through their first year of grief. Knowing this eases my pain too as I prepare to say goodbye. —Pat Rowley



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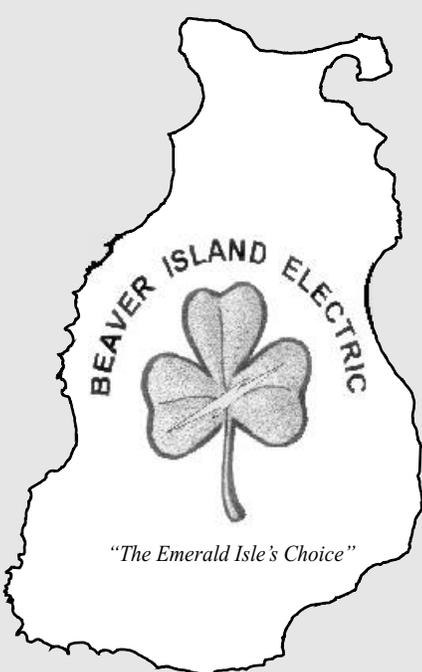
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Book Review: The Journal of Beaver Island History Volume 5

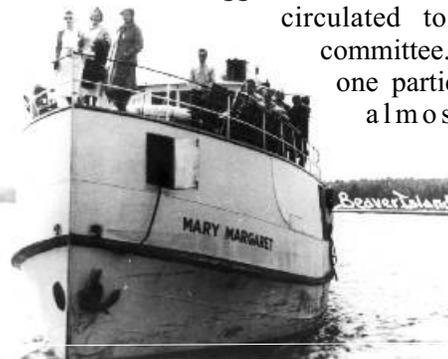


Four years after the appearance of *Volume 4*, the next edition in this series (which was instigated by the Bicentennial Committee) has appeared, generating glowing reviews. Many of the articles focus on the dangers of living here, on the fickleness of the weather (which produced a litany of shipwrecks or required such extraordinary measures as hauling the mail by sled across the ice.) Even the obligatory article on Strang picked up this theme,

because his demise was facilitated by the arrival of the *Michigan* and took place on a dock over the water, not on Beaver's soil. This article recounts the Mormon experience from the viewpoint of Warren Post, through the journal he kept, and puts those times in an interesting light that differs from the usual historic overview.

Two of the articles are transcribed from tape recordings. One of them, Robert Cole's interview of Marguerite Mulligan, is from the initial Oral History project, and demonstrates its value. The other, of our former Postmaster Frank Nackerman, a wonderful natural storyteller, was a kind of afterthought, suggested after early drafts were circulated to the editorial committee. Telling about one particular extended, almost unending crossing of the ice, it was a perfect thematic match.

Other articles focus



Season's Greetings

The Emerald Isle Hotel

In the heart of St. James on the corner of Donegal Bay Road Beaver Island, MI
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on the way life was lived here, at Nomad, in the Sybil and Art Larsen home, on a fish boat, or in Mrs. Redding's cabin. After an informative essay on our loons, the concluding article muses about the influence of the Celtic spirit on Beaver Island today. The over four hundred people who have read this book

since its appearance in August agree that it adds to their appreciation of Beaver Island's rich and still-vibrant heritage.

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The Way it Was: The Christmas Tree Ship

In early December the Coast Guard Cutter *Mackinaw* brought a load of Christmas Trees to Chicago from Cheyboygan, a trip it has made the past three years. By stacking them high on the deck the crew was able to load 500 trees for needy families--a far cry from the over 5,000 attempted in 1912 by the *Rouse Simmons*, remembered today as the Christmas Tree Ship. Of course the *Rouse Simmons* didn't make it to port.

In the late 1800s the wooden schooners that had played such an important role in Great Lakes commerce were being phased out, and could be picked up cheap. The Schuenemann brothers, August and Herman, both captains, came up with a novel use at the end of the season: delivering Christmas



trees from Michigan's Upper Peninsula to Chicago, where they were sold right off the ship. August initiated this in 1890, and was known as Christmas Tree Schuenemann until his schooner, the *S. Thal*, sank with all hands in 1893.

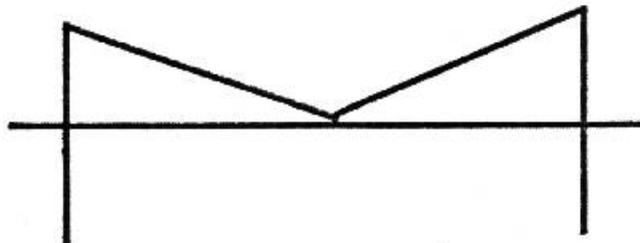
The loss of his brother didn't stop Herman from making the same run with a variety of ships, starting in 1894. In 1910 he was able to acquire an eighth interest in the *Rouse Simmons*, along with the Beaver Hotel's Mannes Bonner, who used her for delivering tan back from Iron Ore Bay to Boyne City, and Charles Nelson. Under Herman's control the ship became a vagabond, wandering around the lake looking for work until it was time to pick up a load of Christmas Trees from Thompson, ten miles west of Manistique. Logging had run its course, and the loggers looked forward to making a little Christmas money by delivering spruce and balsam saplings to Harman's ship.

The *Rouse Simmons* was an old (she'd been built in 1868, 125' long with a 28' beam) ship and not in good shape, although she had just been caulked. The previous year she'd had to be rescued by the car ferry, *Grand Haven*,

and as the weather worsened in the fall of 1912 talk around the port was that she was nearing the end. A rumor started that the rats had abandoned her when she started up the lake from Chicago, causing at least one sailor Herman counted on for the 300-mile return trip to jump ship. But Captain Herman was brimming with self-confidence as he strode the dock: he had sailed her successfully time after time, and he had no doubt he would do so again.

Because the weather was closing down and a second trip was unlikely, Herman took on more trees than was his custom. They filled the hold and were lashed fifteen feet high on the deck; the lower booms had to be propped up on wooden crutches to make them useable. On the 22nd of November a tug pulled her out of the harbor, and she set off into the windy greyness. The temperature quickly dropped below freezing, and a heavy snow began to fall, but Captain Herman did not waver. He chose the open water as less risky than hugging the shore, and assured the fifteen men on board that he would have them safe and sound at the Clerk Street pier.

When the ship was sighted by the



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Kenosha Life Savers the next day, her torn sails were caked with ice and she was flying distress signals. All they had was a rowed boat, so they phoned the nearby Two Rivers station and alerted them that the troubled ship was approaching. The Two Rivers crew had a 34- power boat, the *Tuscadora*, which they launched in the hope to be of help. The snow was coming in squalls: one minute they could see for a mile, but the next only a hundred feet. They pushed forward into the gale, suddenly catching sight of the Christmas Tree Ship only ¼ mile away. Her sails were tattered, and the trees still tied to the deck had become thickets of ice. As she bucked and floundered through the waves it was apparent the ice-bound cargo had made her top-heavy. All the fourteen men could do (two had already been washed overboard, along with their only small boat) was lash themselves together, and pray. Yet they were only a thousand feet away from the *Tuscadora*, so there was hope. But then the white curtain descended again, cutting off all vision. When it lifted a short time later, the *Tuscadora* was all alone on the sea.

In Chicago, 1912 became the year without sufficient Christmas trees.

The next year Herman's widow returned to the Christmas Tree business, along with her three daughters, but instead of chartering a ship to bring them she had them hauled down on the train. But she was enterprising enough to lease an old wreck tied up at the Clark Street dock and load the trees on. For the Schuenemanns, it was business as usual, even so far as the daughters setting up their customary side-line of making wreaths from broken branches right on the ship. They continued to trade on their early fame for another 21 years. In the meantime, every year when the fishermen near Two Rivers pulled up their nets, they were likely to find that their biggest catch was a sadly rotted, unornamented Christmas tree.

No one knew for sure where the sunken ship lay, but in 1971 Milwaukee scuba diver Kent Bellrichard borrowed some sonar equipment to search for the wreck of the *Vernon*, which had gone down in 1887 in that area (see the *Journal of Beaver Island History*, V5.) By accident he discovered the remains of the *Rouse Simmons*, her hold still full



of decayed Christmas trees. He hauled up her huge anchor, which today sits at the Milwaukee Yacht Club, and a few other mementos. Other finds included a skull, a message in a bottle (found in 1927), and Captain Schuenemann's wallet, still held together with a rubber band eleven years after his death.

The Christmas Tree Ship was clearly doomed the moment she left port and her seams began to open from the pressure of the sea, yet she had once been a fine boat. When Tim Graul was preparing to design the *Dennis Sullivan* (which appeared in our harbor this past July), and wanted to give her the clean lines of a fast schooner, one of the ships whose plans he studied was the *Rouse Simmons*. Barry, how about a song?



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The Remains of Cornelius Gallagher's Home



There is a private trail, so overgrown it can barely be seen, running through junipers and under stretched steel cables along the edge

of the Pheasant Preserve. It ends at a mowed field on a slightly convex plateau surrounded by wetlands and Cornelius's Swamp. Towards dusk, deer browse, and various songbirds take their regular, fifteen-minute turn exuberantly telling the night that they are here, and are not afraid.

In the southeast corner stands the remains of an old, two-story log home, where both Salty and Cundy Gallagher spent their youth. Interior walls were done with plaster-and-lath and some wainscoting. The spaces between the logs were filled with

thin, flat squares of cedar, arranged like tumbled dominos and then chinked over with a cementitious compound that has weathered well. The outside was once furred with vertical strips and then sided, but nothing remains of the siding itself; it must have been taken off and removed when the home was abandoned.

The structure is surrounded with still-bearing apple trees. At the other end of the field, a winding dirt road leads through other, hidden fields, eventually bringing a view of Round Lake, a favorite stopping spot for several kinds of duck and geese.

This is now all private land; permission must be obtained before venturing onto it.





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News from the Townships

Peaine: Regular Meeting of 12-10

MOTION Nelson, second Works, to approve the 11-13 minutes: PASSED. New bill-paying procedure: all bills must be submitted to the Clerk by the 2nd Monday of each month. The Clerk will enter the bills into the computer and print checks along with a check registry for review and approval by the Board at each monthly Board meeting. If approved, the Clerk will then sign the bottom voucher; the Treasurer will sign the check.

MOTION Works, second Morgan, to authorize all township employees payroll, including inspection inspectors and board of review salaries, utility bills, aviation gas sales tax, and invoices with discounts and penalties. MOTION Nelson, second Morgan, to pay current bills; PASSED.

At Lake Geneserath, Sullivan has given permission to bring equipment across his land to widen the Jordan River's mouth. MOTION Works, second Nelson, to hire Gordon Heikka for winter snow-plowing; PASSED. MOTION Works, second Morgan, to accept Bud Martin's fuel oil bid; PASSED. MOTION Nelson, second Morgan, to renew Chamber of Commerce membership for \$195; passed. MOTION Morgan, second Nelson, to change the name of Airport Road to West Airport Road; PASSED.

Jerry LaFreniere presented a plan for a 24' x 24' street-side addition to the EMS garage at the Med Center. A survey will be done and a committee formed with Board members from both Townships to discuss the best possible addition.

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NEW SEASONAL HOURS

Michigan Land Use Institute Island meeting

With 22 Islanders in its membership roll, the Michigan Land Use Institute will hold an organizational meeting here on Thursday, January 23rd, at 7:00 p.m. at the Peaiue Township Hall. So far, most of the talk about the advantages of developing a relationship with the MLUI has centered on the idea that although we do not currently have the kind of emergency that could best be solved with their participation, it's wise of us to develop a bond beforehand because there's a good chance problems may arise. The MLUI's staff are experts on smart growth. In the past year we have seen new subdivisions, a new BITA building, and new pavement and streetlights, and plans are afoot for a new Medical Center, Community House, and Museum, and it would be only prudent to call on the MLUI's expertise.

But a reason for us as individuals to get involved that hasn't received as much attention is that the MLUI gives us an opportunity to help bring the smart growth philosophy to bear on matters at the state level. It is an important forum for expressing our shared concerns and working on having them implemented as Michigan's accepted policy.

Beaver Island is a logical place to become a MLUI stronghold, because it champions the very same values that brought many of his here: a desire not to impinge on our natural endowment as a "hidden side-effect" of uncontrolled sprawl. Those of us who believe in this issue should attend this meeting, if for no other reason than to enjoy the pleasure of rubbing elbows with kindred spirits.



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Letters ... we get Letters!

Questions about Med Center

According to the November 2002 letter from the Medical Center Board asking for donations, our Medical Center has lost its funding for operating costs and now will be relying on patient revenue, property taxes, and private contributions. At the same time, according to Joe Reed's report in the October *Beacon*, the Medical Center Board is happy to announce the hiring of a "half time" manager for \$120,000 for 18 months of work. Wow! This seems like an extremely excessive amount of money for a part-time job. Furthermore, if funding the operating costs of the medical center is a problem, might we be better off with our existing medical center rather than a new and bigger one, which certainly will be even more expensive to run? For the many of us working folks who can't afford health insurance, a fancy new medical center, with its operation funded by increased taxes and, probably, increased patient revenue, isn't as exciting as some might think. For those who can't afford to go to the Medical Center now, paying more taxes for a new fancy building isn't an attractive idea. By the way, do we really need a new building? I have never been to the Medical Center when it was crowded. —Gwen Marston

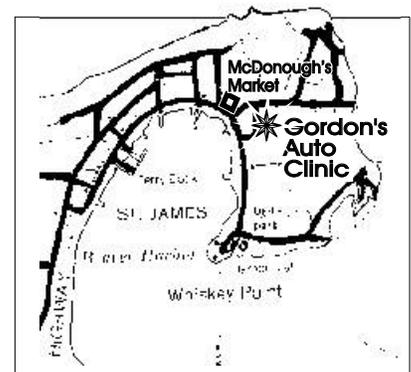
An Open Letter to the BIRHC Board:

In a country recently awash in corporate scandals such as the collapse of Enron, cooked financial books, and sleazy business practices, I smell a rat on Beaver Island. To pick up the Beaver Beacon and read the news of a part-time Transition Manager being hired by the Rural Health Clinic for a mere total of \$160,000? I was outraged, to say the least. And then to find out that the position itself had never even been posted--so that qualified Island residents could have a chance at it--further shows disregard and insensitivity to the people you serve. Shame on all of you.

You are now in the process of building a new structure, and want community support behind your cause. Why then, at a public meeting, would you deflect all questions posed by the audience concerning all aspects of BIRHC decisions and policy? When confronted with these questions, your response was that there was not a full board present and overlooked the fact that in fact a quorum was present, in the audience. There should have been ample representation to field questions

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from the public at that time.

The public present at that well-attended meeting were more interested in your rationale for hiring this manager. Why do this woman's services come at such a high price? What qualifies her over potential Island residents to do the job? It would seem you have overlooked what is right under your nose. That decision must have been a real morale booster for those who do work hard to keep this facility running smoothly.

In my opinion, these are some very important questions that demand answers:

What kinds of questions were asked in the BIRHC's community needs survey? Who among the community was actually sent this survey? I myself never received any survey or inquiry from the BIRHC asking of my opinions, and I know for a fact that others in the community were ignored in this way as well. If this survey was the foundation upon which so many important decisions defining the future design of the new clinic were based, not to mention the nature and extent of the services to be offered there, then why were more local residents not

allowed to participate in the poll?

And furthermore: why does the BIRHC Board publicly ask for greater attendance at community meetings like the one held on November 20th, and then claim to not have a quorum present to hear and/or act on the issues raised by the public while clearly knowing exactly what the public was going to ask? This turn of events seems to suggest that the BIRHC Board is more interested in perpetuating secrecy and making their own decisions than fairly hearing and responding to the true needs of the community it claims to serve. It is understandable then that some of the community feel shut out of the decisions that impact their health needs.

After being shut down at the meeting, with no questions answered, I was then the recipient of a plea for money to support the Beaver Island Rural Health Center. Please, if you are not able to stand behind the establishment—the community—you represent, and answer to the public, why would you think I would be willing to contribute money to support your cause?

—Respectfully, Krys Lyle



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An Editorial Note

All the discussion about the transition to the new Medical Center calls out for a few comments. The first is that we should remember that the Board members are serving as volunteers. They did not ask for this position, but are giving it their complete attention. They have devoted weeks and months and years to the task of figuring out what we need to serve the Island's medical needs and how to go about getting it. They asked the community for input, which has not always been forthcoming. They called in the experts, and garnered some occasionally contradictory opinions. In the middle of this, our funding options have changed, as has the nature of the medical profession itself. Not everything has turned out perfect, but they have accomplished quite a bit, and we owe them our thanks.

This is not the first million dollar project to expand our infrastructure, nor will it be the last. Perhaps it's time for us to study this situation to see how we can improve our procedures. One lesson we can learn is that we must try harder to get the entire community involved in planning future improvements. Those of us who have sat back and withheld our comments until it was

almost too late should resolve to contribute our insight, analysis, and experience on a timely basis. If we don't, and we don't like the way our social evolution unfolds, we'll have to accept some of the blame.

So let's get more involved in keeping tabs on the important decisions being made about our community, and play a greater role in helping to make them ourselves.

A Surprise Wedding

On the day before Christmas, Dave Duda and Marilyn Clark were joined in holy matrimony by Reverend Howard Davis, following the Christmas Eve service at the Beaver Island Christian Church. George Satch and Carol Wierenga were the official witnesses of this special event. Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Duda; we all hope you enjoy many years of wedded bliss.

A Welcome Birth

Audrey and Vince Beilman are now the proud grandparents of healthy and beautiful Grace Audrey Beilman, born to Ivy and Vince Beilman II. She has already received a set of keys to Beaver Island.

C. Marshall Smith 1937-2002

Marshall was born in Detroit on April 14, 1937 to Mary (McMeans) and Carl Smith, and grew up in Lapeer. He graduated from the U of M with an MSE in Mechanical Engineering, and earned and MBA from U of Detroit. He served as a 1st. Lt. in the Army Reserve.

He was a licensed Professional Engineer and member of the Regulatory Affairs Professionals Society. While residing in Ann Arbor, he was a manager at Arthur Andersen Consulting, Sycor Corp. and Sarns-3M. In 1988, he moved to Kansas where he was the regulatory manager at Nellcor Puritan Bennett. He established an independent consulting practice for the regulation of medical devices in 1998.

Marshall is survived by his daughters, Ellen Grosh of Ann Arbor and Dawn Swarhout of Farmington Hills; his grandchildren, Katie and Laura Grosh, Scott and Matthew Swarhout; and his brother Wayne Smith, of San Marino,. He was active in the Germania Club of Kansas City and Stein Collectors International and enjoyed woodworking, folk music and travel. Interment was at Mt. Hope Cemetery, Lapeer. Memorial contributions can be made to the Nature Conservancy.

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One Hundred Years Ago

Charlevoix Sentinel January 1, 1903: County Treasurer's Report - Liquor Tax Collection, year ending December 31, 1092: Name: C. C. Gallagher; Residence: St. James; Place of business: St. James; Amount: \$300; Date: May 1, 1902.

Charlevoix Sentinel January 1, 1903: Local News: "The Beaver Island Lumber Co. of St. James, has been incorporated with a capital stock of \$75,000. This is the company which is planning extensive operations in timber on the Island, even to the extent of building a railroad six miles in length."

Charlevoix Sentinel January 8, 1903: Local News: "The steamer *Beaver* went to the Island Monday, and expects to go again Friday, weather permitting. She may make two or three more trips, but that is uncertain."

Charlevoix Sentinel January 15, 1903: Local News: "The Misses Anna Mooney and Ray McCauley, of St. James, are students at the Solar College in

Chicago, taking a course in Hair-dressing, Manicuring, Cheropody, and Facial Massage."

"The Steamer *Beaver* made her last trip to Beaver Harbor Saturday afternoon, returning Sunday morning. She had a good passage both ways, but could not get into the harbor, owing to ice, landing her freight at McCann's dock. The last mail trip last year, Capt. Campbell made with the tug *Geiken* the last day of January."

Charlevoix Sentinel January 22, 1903: Local News: "The tug *Parmalee* made a mail trip to the Beavers yesterday. She was able only to get within fifty feet of McCann's dock at the Point, but the mail was successfully exchanged. No news of importance."

List of Jurors drawn for the term of court to be held on the 2nd day of March: John E. Green - St. James; Philip C. Gallagher-Peaine. -Joyce Bartels



Ruth Arden 1925 - 2002

Ruth Arden, 77, of Beaver Island passed away December 19, 2002 at the Charlevoix Area Hospital. A memorial service was held at 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 28, at Holy Cross Church, Beaver Island. The Rev. Patrick Cawley officiated, and interment took place in Holy Cross Cemetery.

Ruth was born on Oct. 30, 1925, in Grosse Pointe Woods to Everette and Dorothy (Wills) Plumb. On Sept. 1, 1950, she married Glenn E. Arden. They continued to live in the Detroit area until their retirement in 1975, when they moved to Beaver Island.

She was a member of Holy Cross Church and Holy Cross Altar Society. She was an active community member on Beaver Island who was known for the insight and wisdom she brought to such duties as her long-time role on the Planning Commission and Board of Appeals. She loved to help cook for various functions, such as the Homecoming Dinner and the Game Club dinners. She particularly took joy in her three grandchildren and family.

Ruth is survived by her husband, Glenn, of Beaver Island; her daughters, Linda (Kevin) McDonough of Beaver Island, Michelle (Timothy) Furness of Kona, Hawaii; and grandchildren, Shane, Erin and Colleen McDonough, of Beaver Island.

Arrangements were handled by Winchester Funeral Home in Charlevoix.

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What's up with ... Bob Hamil?

Two years ago Bob Hamil, our former appliance repairman, cable installer, and general handyman, moved to the mainland to earn a better living as a photographer and web site designer. Lately he's been working for the Petoskey Theater Festival, mostly stage managing and doing tech work, but he performed in a recent play—*God's Country*, by Steven Dietz, about the mid '80's trial for The Order, an off-shoot of the Aryan Nation's Church. In their effort to create a "White Homeland" consisting of the five northwest states, they robbed banks and armored cars, and assassinated Alan Berg, a shock-jock in Denver CO. Bob played a former Order member and the lead prosecution witness, as well as some smaller roles.

"The last performance of the play was two weeks ago," Bob said recently. "I would have liked to have done more than nine performances—I was just feeling like I was getting all the mood and character transitions down. We got good reviews and even a couple letters to the editor, because of the controversial content. Since I was playing a leading role, different times people who I barely know stopped me on the street

and talked for several minutes about their reactions to the play. In some ways it was gratifying, and also a bit overwhelming. I'm not used to that degree of attention."

He's stage managing the next show, which has just started rehearsals: *Arabian Nights*. "After this one there isn't anything scheduled for the spring, which will be a bit of relief. With the skiing and snow-boarding around here, this is a busy EMS season in Boyne City." Bob has been working for the Boyne City EMS. Soon they'll be moving to a new station, so there's been extra organizational and construction work—another trade Bob plies. "It'll be just in time to get in the new place because it'll have a bunk room. My boss may need surgery, so I'd be doing a lot of overnight shifts," Bob said.

"The service has been short-staffed, but with the new place I'm hoping we'll have an easier time attracting more medics. Because I'm actually doing work (instead of sitting waiting for an EMS call), I am now getting paid for the majority of the time I'm down there. It was nice to have several days off, to get more sleep and to finish many other pro-

jects such as my burgeoning web site at <http://visionsofpeace.com/>"

He's also been working occasionally at the medical job he used to do a lot—cardiac stress-testing. "I'm negotiating to work there more if they'll give me insurance benefits. Maybe if politicians lived up to their promises getting health insurance won't be such a battle. I'm not holding my breath!"

In the middle of all this Bob has found the time to install solar energy panels on a west side cabin in the woods, and may come over in the spring for other work.

The Garden Island Hunt

Getting to Beaver is hard enough for most hunters, but that's nothing compared to the difficulties of hunting on Garden Island. Nevertheless, 22 hunters managed to transport their gear across the turbulent channel. Their efforts were rewarded with 13 deer, including 11 bucks, with one 9-point and 6 8-points. The only negative this season was the DNR deciding to crack down on ATVs—as if the DNR didn't know how important the trail-clearing work done by these men is for making this majestic place accessible to all

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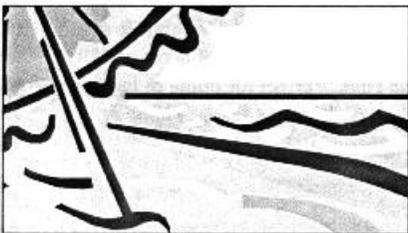
A Visit from Santa

Twas the week before the night before Christmas, and all through the Island kids were beseeching their parents to bring them to the *Emerald Isle Hotel* because maybe, just maybe, the Santa they had not seen since his appearance in disguise in the Fourth of July parade would dodge all the meteorites and other impediments to night flights and make it to Beaver Island, and they would have the chance to tell

him how nice they had been, and give him their longish lists of what they wanted for their good behavior.

The rules were clearly printed, yet someone had forgotten one all-important phrase, from Santa's point of view: "*kids only!*" Consequently, without that rejoinder, Santa's delicate lap became fair game for all who braved the wintry weather: young kids, old kids, and adults. The weight

was not the problem; from his many appearances in the Santa chair and on stage, we have all learned that Santa may be a lot of things but one thing he is *not* is weak. No, his body was not crushed by the weight of his biggest supplicants, but oh what they wanted! For example, Brad and Drew (right, above) wanted an ice bridge to East Lansing so they could skate to school. That might be beyond even Santa.



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School Pageant

Once again the earnest dramatists at the Beaver Island Community School put on a wonderful Christmas Show that took advantage of its talented elementary class—and some wonderful people from the Christmas Cantata, Evie Folkening, Judi Meister, Laraine Dawson, and Joe Moore. Christmas songs separated a handful of plays, with an instrumental trio thrown in for good luck.

A Caroling We Will Go

On the Sunday evening before Christmas many Islanders were serenaded by two wonderful groups of carolers braving the wintry gusts to entertain family and friends. Sponsored by the Youth Consortium, the Vera Wojan Christmas Choir carried on a decades-old tradition. These hearty singers included young and old alike, with the *very* young members singing at the very top of their lungs.

The second, independent group was Martha Guth's ensemble, who sang in four-part harmony. It included Phil Becker, Bill Detwiler, Joe Moore, Kevin White, Martha's cousin Judy, Christy Albin, and Martha Guth.

A highly anticipated duel planned for out behind the stable at midnight failed to materialize, so nature's carolers, our moon-baying coyote pack, had to take up the slack, which they were glad to do.

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Weather or Not

So, a New Year dawns on Beaver Island. Other than the Four Horses of the Apocalypse, what will 2003 bring? I suppose we will have to wait and see from the safety of our bunkers.

The weather, however, is much easier to predict. What you see is what you get. A little bit colder than December, which by all standards was exceptionally warm, and not much more precipitation. Drought? You ask. Perhaps. Lingering effects of global warming? Maybe. Either way, long gone are the thirty-foot snow drifts, snow from November to April and any school kid's hope of snow days. Why? Ask the Horsemen. At any rate, 4-wheelers are in; snow machines are out. The Twelve Days of Christmas have been replaced by Seven Drunken Nights, and if the coming year continues the spiral of the previous two, the Island's population could jump to over twenty thousand. Good night and good news.

—Liam Racine

Jude Martin

Word has been received that Jude Martin was severely mugged in his Grand Rapids home, possibly by two Mexican tenants he had evicted from an apartment building he owned. Unfortunately the long-time contractor, who built such Island structures as the new BITA building, is not expected to recover.

Recipes from Our Readers

Jeanie Gillespie's Peanut Butter Cookies

Mix together the following ingredients: 1 egg, 1/2 cup shortening, 1/2 cup peanut butter, 1/2 cup white sugar, 1/2 cup brown sugar, 1 1/4 cups flour, 3/4 teaspoon baking soda, 1/2 teaspoon baking powder, and 1/4 teaspoon salt.

Make balls and flatten them out. Stripe top with a fork. Bake at 375° for 10-12 minutes.

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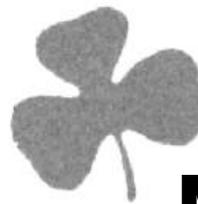
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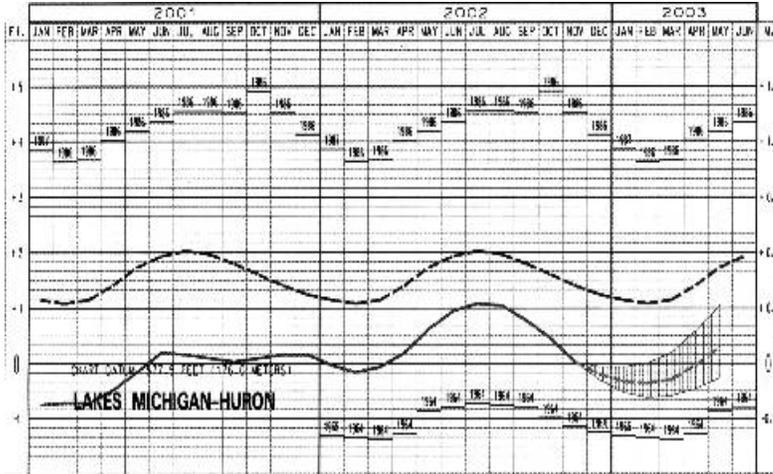


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Lake Levels



BASIN	PRECIPITATION (INCHES)							
	November				12-Month Comparison			
	2002	Average (1991-1995)	Diff.	% of Average	Last 12 months	Average (1990-2001)	Diff.	% of Average
Superior	1.29	2.51	-1.22	51	32.16	30.41	1.75	106
Michigan-Huron	1.86	2.78	-0.92	67	30.87	32.09	-1.22	96
Erie	3.51	2.85	0.66	123	34.84	34.99	-0.15	100
Ontario	3.14	3.13	0.01	100	35.29	35.27	0.02	100
Great Lakes	2.07	2.75	-0.68	75	32.27	32.37	-0.10	100

LAKE	November WATER SUPPLIES ² (CFS)		November OUTFLOW ³ (CFS)	
	2002 ¹	Average (1990-1999)	2002 ¹	Average ⁴ (1990-1999)
Superior	-15,000	18,000	79,000	80,000
Michigan-Huron	-65,000	36,000	173,000 ⁴	190,000
Erie	-10,000	-5,000	184,000 ⁴	199,000
Ontario	20,000	20,800	227,000	236,000

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DONEGAL BAY COTTAGE - On dune with private beach access and the best swimming and sunsets on the Island. 3 BR, sleeps 6, 1 bath, washer/dryer. Kayaks and bikes for your use. \$700/ week. Off-season rates available. Dana Luscombe eves. (248) 549-2701 days (248) 546-6680.

COTTAGE FOR RENT -NW shore with sunset view. On water. Three miles from town. All appliances and amenities. Best for 2 or 3 people. No

smoking, no pets. \$550/week Off-season rates. Call (616) 396-6468.

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.

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Calendar of Events

- Dec. 31 New Year's Eve Party
8 pm - 2 am
- Jan. 2 St. James Township 7 pm
- Jan. 8 Peaine Township 7 pm
- Jan. 9 Wildlife Club
St. James Fire Hall
- Jan. 10 Hannahville at Beaver
- Jan. 13 School Board, 7:30 pm
- Jan. 14 BITA, noon
- Jan. 21 Partnership Project, noon - 2:30, Peaine Twp. Hall
- Jan. 21 BIRHC, 7 pm, library
- Jan. 23 Michigan Land Use Institute, 7 pm, Peaine Twp. Hall
- Jan 31. Grand Marais at Beaver

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