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The Way it Was: the Arranmore connection

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News from the Townships; BITA & BIBCO Negotiations

Across the Ice; The Grand Rapids Party; Happy St. Patrick's Day

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Above: The ice can be a mighty powerful force. Luckily for us, Beaver Island Marine will no doubt have everything in tip top shape again by the summer.

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The Way it was: The Arranmore Connection

Now that many Beaver Islanders are packing for Ireland to return the favor the visitors from Arranmore paid us two and a half years ago, it behooves us to consider the nature of our long-term relationship with our Irish "twin."

Many realize that Irish immigrants settled on Beaver Island before the Mormon occupation, only to be driven off when Strang's group completed their grab for power. Because the fish were here, the disenfranchised did not go far. Some were on Mackinac Island, some on the mainland, and others, such as Black John Bonner (named for his hair), were huddled in a rough fisherman's camp on Gull Island. Many Irish were in the 80-man mob that "swept the Beavers clean" in 1856, creating a vacuum that pulled in new residents who turned out to be Irish, many from an island off Irelands' northwest coast, Arranmore.

The Irish potato blight had started in 1845 and decimated the country over the next three years. Absentee landlords shipped the few crops grown in the poor soils to the most lucrative markets, and farmers who had worked the same plot for generations, still using their great grandfathers' spade and hoe, were evicted if they could not pay their rent. Without the potato crop, there simply was no money. Plunged into misery, the gaunt people of Arranmore were reduced to eating seaweed. In 1847, after half had been evicted by a landowner they'd never seen because they had no documents to prove they'd ever paid rent, the Society of Friends sent 2

coffin ships to bring many of them to America.

Like other Irish, the Arranmore Islanders congregated in Quebec and Toronto, in New York, and in the Pennsylvania coal fields. A high percentage spoke only Gaelic. They were dependent on social concourse for their sense of identity and did their best to stay together. Thus when a few of them happened onto Beaver Island, both before and after the Mormon exodus, it could only be expected that they would get word to their family and friends.

Black John Bonner, who had left Rutland before the famine, told his friends, which included (from Arranmore) Dan Malloy and his wife Fanny O'Donnell, living in New York, Dan's brother and sister, and Anthony "Salty" O'Donnell. Dan brought his brother-in-law William Gallagher, known as "Old Billy." Salty had married Hannah, who had been married to a different Anthony O'Donnell, a saloon keeper on Arranmore. She brought the children from her first marriage. Dan Malloy had married Susan Mooney, whose sister Mary married Pat Malloy, not related to Dan. John "Old John" Gillespie emigrated from Arranmore in 1859. His wife was Mary Dunlevy whose parents were Daniel Dunlevy and Hannah O'Donnell—from Arranmore.

Bernard "Barney" O'Donnell and his wife Margaret took up residence at what is now Barney's Lake. Margaret was a Curry or Curran. Barney must have met her in Canada. Margaret had

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14 children and died by 1884 at 44. Barney's half brother, "Darkey Mike," named for his ruddy skin, emigrated in 1851 with a wife who became disenchanted and went back. He had quite a time getting his marriage annulled so he could marry Nancy Nanjog. Barney and Mike had another brother, Frank, who emigrated in 1852, and a sister Mary who married Michael McCafferty. They all lived on Darkeytown Road.

Charlie O'Donnell, called Strac, and his wife Grace Gillespie had come from Arranmore to Toronto. Working for the railroad, Strac stole the crew's payroll and slipped across the border to Detroit. Hired to work on the Whiskey Point Lighthouse, he was so enamored of Beaver Island that he urged his wife to come, for "this place looks just like Ireland—only better." She was convinced, and came with a party that included Vesty McDonough (from Galway), Big Dominick (Gallagher) and his wife Mary Greene, and Conn McCauley, who piloted their chartered boat—Conn was one of five brothers to come. Once they'd settled in, they got the word to their relatives, and were soon joined by Bridget Burns and Pete McCauley, and Mary and Tom Boyle.

The fish-based Beaver Island economy was booming, and the availability of cheap or even free land and abandoned Mormon houses allowed the first wave of settlers to save enough money to send for their family and friends. Little Mike McCafferty and his wife Big McCafferty came to Beaver on

a schooner in 1863. Three years later 18-year-old Big Owen Gallagher piloted another chartered ship to Beaver; when they landed, they met 52 families from Arranmore. That ship included Mary Roddy, who married Barney Gallagher; her brother Andrew was sailing on the lake, and when he stopped to visit her he found so many friends that he stayed. Also on board were Kitty Gallagher and Frank McCauley and their families, and the two Dan Greenes (White Dan and Red Dan), who saved enough money to send for their sisters the next year.

In 1870, when anthracite declined, Step-and-a-half (one of three unrelated John Bonners), Cornelius Gallagher, and a dozen other Arranmore people moved to Beaver. Every year there were more and more Irish, culminating in 1884, the year of the last large migration. This was arranged with the help of Father Peter Gallagher, Beaver's Gaelic-speaking priest. Over 40 families from Arranmore boarded a steamer in Buffalo that took them to St. James.

In time the number of immigrants from our sister island fell off, and the letters going back and forth declined in frequency as well. But those who remained on Arranmore never forgot their relatives and friends who had braved the trip and made a new life in America, even after seven generations. No wonder they were so excited when they were here 30 months ago, and why so many Beaver Islanders, who have been blessed to share this heritage, have signed on to pay their respects in return.



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Rural Arts and Culture Grant Update

After much discussion, we are changing the "House Parties" from Sunday to Saturday, until school gets out in June. The time will remain 2 PM to 6 PM until summer, as well. Our intent has been to provide a setting where all generations can gather for music, story-telling, and conversation. Although we have been happy with the level of participation, we continue to hear that Sunday makes it difficult for those with small children, or who need to prepare to get back to work on Monday. This change is intended to ease those difficulties, and maintain the enthusiasm we've seen so far. The next House Party will be Saturday, March 8, at the home of Karen and Adam Wirth. Come join in the fun!

The T-shirt project originally planned for St. Patrick's Day has been postponed until summer. This will give us more time to work out problems with the design, and find a larger audience for distribution.

We have had a good response to our "After-School Art" program. About thirty children helped Deborah Harwood decorate Valentine cookies. At this time, at least twelve children are signed up for each of the scheduled activities.

"Winter Wednesday" enrichment classes are going well, too. Chinese cooking was a big hit on January 29, with fifteen participants dicing, chopping, and steadily stir-frying. The highlight of the evening was the

delicious meal that we all had so much fun preparing. Special Desserts and Cake Decorating, taught by Sarah Myers and Tammy LaFreniere, took place on February 19. The next week Cheryl Podgorski's Herbal Workshop was held. Remember, we have to have at least 6 people sign up to hold an intended class. The March schedule offers Leather Craft with Kevin Bousquet on the 5th, Music Appreciation and Voice with Martha Guth on the 19th, and another Herbal Workshop with Cheryl Podgorski on the 26th. Flyers are available at the Post Office, with all activities listed. We appreciate prior registration; please call Cindy at 448-2960 to sign up.

We have added a Studio Art class during the last hour on Thursdays, starting March 13th. Designed for high-school students who would like instruction in various art media, participation will be voluntary. Offerings include watercolor, portrait drawing, and collage.

Beaver Island Community School will be participating in the Youth Art Show at the Crooked Tree Arts Center in Petoskey. The opening reception was held on Sunday, February 23rd, from 2 until 5 p.m. The work of fourteen students was submitted for the show. For a report on how this went, check next month's *Beacon*.

If you have some suggestions, or can help keep this going, let me know.

—Cindy Ricksgers

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BITA News Release

The Beaver Island Transportation Authority (BITA) has been working diligently to get a new agreement with the Beaver Island Boat Company into place by March 31, 2003. This has been necessitated by state and federal guidelines and regulations. This process was originally started in 1997 at BITA's insistence.

BITA and BIBCO have held a series of meetings since October to resolve these issues. On Monday, February 17, 2003, BITA held a special meeting to discuss the progress in reaching an agreement.

The BITA board of directors offered the following resolution: The Beaver Island Transportation Authority is anxious to have the contract agreed upon by March 31, 2003. We are of the opinion that it will not be achieved with the present chief negotiator for BIBCO in place. We urgently request the BIBCO Board of Directors to replace their chief negotiator so we may achieve the new contract by our deadline of March 31, 2003.

Furthermore, since we have not received a draft agreement as promised from BIBCO, we will be presenting a draft contract to their negotiating team. This draft document in its current form meets the criteria for state approval and is similar in content to an agreement used by another Michigan ferry system.

BITA is very concerned that by not meeting state and federal requirements and guidelines, the advantageous relationship that we have with the State of Michigan in providing funds for equipment, improvements, and maintenance of the Emerald Isle may be in jeopardy. In BITA's ten-year existence, the state and federal government have provided \$5.8 million dollars for the purchase and operation of the M/V Emerald Isle. This figure includes the vessel, capital equipment, maintenance, and improvements to the facilities. For FY 2004, the authority is requesting \$315,000.00 in capital equipment and improvements.

BITA's board of Directors asks for BIBCO's recommitment to this negotiation process in order to better serve our community and the traveling public.

BIBCO News Release

The Beaver Island Boat Company is committed to the negotiation process with the Beaver Island Transportation Authority, and will continue to strive toward a contractual agreement by March 31, 2003. Such distractions as have recently been directed at the Boat Company only delay the process. Once an agreement has been reached between our two organizations, appropriate public comments will be made.

Letters to the Editor:

It seems that the BITA-BIBCO operating agreement is getting a lot of attention!! The Beaver Island Transportation Authority (a public body) has been informed several times over the years that the present agreement with the Beaver Island Boat Co. (BIBCO) does not meet State and Federal guidelines and was never accepted by the State as valid. We have attempted for more than 5 years to get the agreement into compliance and only ask that BIBCO provide someone willing to make it a reality. As volunteer board members we do not choose to provoke any situation for our entertainment. This is an important effort that has to meet State and Federal guidelines and best represent the intentions of a public private partnership, in this case, the traveling public. —Rich Gillespie

Chamber News

The Chamber of Commerce just put tickets on sale for the Citizen of the Year Banquet. The event will take place on April 12th at the Shamrock. The Chamber also announced that its 2003 Visitor and Business Directory will be printed by mid-March. Steve West has been very successful at increasing the number of Chamber members this year, so much so that the directory has increased from 20 pages to 24 pages of members, full from top to bottom.

Sad News

We were sorry to hear that Charles Dunleavy passed away in Chicago. On his last trip here he still had such a wonderful hearty appetite for life.



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News from the Beaver Island Wildlife Club

The Wildlife Club held its second regular monthly meeting on February 13, 2003. We meet at the St. James Fire Hall on the second Thursday of every month.

Our committees are working hard to accomplish some goals for 2003. Guidelines will be submitted by March for habitat planting and our successful hunter contest.

The walleye rearing pond project will be resumed as soon as possible in the spring, with completion expected in time to receive walleye fry by early to mid May, depending on the weather. A CMU graduate student will be assigned to oversee the operation. If all goes as planned the walleye fingerlings will be transferred to Lake Geneserath by late June. A 30" walleye was caught through the ice this winter on Lake Geneserath, so get your fishing gear in order 'cause we're going to have a viable fishery there sooner than you think!

We would like to improve our membership numbers. We are striving to make membership more attractive, with more interesting meetings, better communication, updating membership material, and even a brochure.

Our wild turkey census is very poor. The count was done during the last two weeks of January and totals only 171 birds. This report was given

to the DNR, who will no doubt recommend that we do not have a fall hunt. The numbers are down for the entire county due to poor nesting last spring because of the cold, wet weather. We continue to feed the flocks we have, which is critical because of the deep snow.

Our next meeting is Thursday, March 13, 2003 at the Fire Hall.

—Lois Williams, secretary

Thanks from the Bellamy Family

We would like to extend a sincere, heart-felt Thank You to all of those who expressed concern and sympathy during the last couple of months. You can not imagine how difficult this time has been for the family. But without the cards, phone calls, emails, and prayers from so many friends we could not have gotten through this. We could not believe how much support came to us from the Island. There were many who helped in the search effort, some without our knowledge, and for that we are very grateful. While we still have a long road ahead of us, we can take comfort that our parents were loved by many, and left behind some wonderful memories. Thank You.

—Missy, Jenny, Mike,
and the Bellamy Family

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Last year Cheryl Podgorski opened her "Stoney Acres Garden and Gifts" without having any idea how well it would go. It turned into quite a success, but like many start-up businesses on Beaver Island, all that meant was that she didn't lose too much money. Still, she was encouraged by the support she received from her customers, and plans to have another go at it this year.

Like last year, she'll concentrate on two areas: providing bedding plants in season (she'll keep them available as long as she can, probably until mid-July), and offering hand-crafted gifts, mainly created by herself: Native American items, jewelry, leatherwork, bird feeders, oil lamps, terrariums, gourds, canvas bags, and pillows. She may stock some craft kits for those with more time on their hands.

In addition, she'll offer a series of workshops, including repeats of those she recently offered through Cindy Ricksgers' program at school: pine-needle basket making, and medicinal plants. Her herbal workshop will be scheduled for late July, when the plants are ready.

She's also willing to take orders by April 15th for plants she'll care for until her customers arrive—almost anything, so long as she can get it from her suppliers. Just phone her at 448-2930 to make your arrangements.

New Scholarship Fund will aid Nursing Students

Former Charlevoix mayor, civic booster, and philanthropist Ralph McRae died over a year ago. But thanks to his foresight and generosity, his influence will continue to live on. The Edna Brown Memorial Scholarship Fund, named in honor of McRae's mother, has been established within the Charlevoix County Community Foundation.

"Ralph McRae had a longtime admiration for the nursing profession," CCCF president Robert Tambellini explained. "Since his mother was a caring person who had a reputation for helping others in need, Ralph named his fund in her memory."

Beginning next fall, the Edna Brown Memorial Scholarship Fund will provide 4 to 6 full-tuition scholarships to qualifying students from Charlevoix and Emmet Counties who wish to pursue a nursing degree at NCMC and have been accepted into the nursing program. Applicants will be evaluated on financial need, GPA, and a personal statement. The deadline for applications is April 1, 2003. To obtain more information and/or an application, contact the NCMC Financial Aid Office at 231-348-6627.

The Edna Brown fund joins 141 others held by the CCCF, 45 of which are designated for scholarships. Of the foundation's \$7.1 million in assets,

more than \$1.2 million is invested in scholarship funds. Last year, CCCF awarded more than \$85,000 in scholarships. The foundation's total scholarship awards now approach \$500,000.

Students on the Slopes

On February 7th, the Youth Consortium sponsored a day of downhill skiing at a mainland ski resort. A handful of adult chaperones accompanied 40 BICS students, 37 of which had never skied down a hill before. The \$80 charge included a round trip plane ticket at a reduced rate, an hour and a half group lesson, and then lift tickets for the rest of the day—although after a few unbraked runs (the biggest problem was slowing down), some of the students decided to investigate the resort's video arcade.

The group included students of all ages, from mid-elementary to high school. Strangely, those in the middle opted for the increased difficulty of snow boards. Despite the fact that only a few had ever done this before, there were no broken bones or serious dislocations, although one girl fell over on a steep slope and slid all the way down face first, plowing up enough snow to warrant being cared for, briefly, by the rescue team. The end result: another interesting new experience under their belt.



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Across The Ice

Don Whitley looks out of the window of his room at the Jacobetti Home for Veterans in Marquette, Michigan and comments on the clear, cold February weather.

"I think maybe someone could do it this year."

He is talking about the continued cold the region has experienced in January and February and about a walk across the ice of northern Lake Michigan he and his brother undertook 40 years ago to the month.

"It was a rare time where we had both stopped drinking and so we felt physically up to a challenge," he said.

Don, and his late brother Ivan, in their mid 20's at the time, became the first known people to walk in a direct route from Charlevoix to Beaver Island, some 25 miles out in the lake.

"Plenty of people have crossed the ice up to the north near Good Heart where there is less of the lake to cross, but it's a little more difficult to find the right conditions to do it straight across," according to Don.

It was an especially cold winter in 1963 and the brothers had heard there was ice all the way across to the Island from pilots who flew between the

mainland and Island. Despite the fact that Ivan had several small children at home, the two found themselves standing on the shore of Lake Michigan, near the current Charlevoix water filtration plant, early on Sunday, February 24th.

After a picture was taken proving the two were woefully underdressed for such an endeavor, they set out across the ice. Don says he was wearing quilted underwear under dress slacks, a thin quilted, nylon jacket and rubber boots with felts. He had no hat with him, by the way. Ivan was dressed in a similar fashion, but did have a thin knit hat and scarf.

"At one point, Ivan gave me the scarf and I wrapped it around my head. It was pretty cold that day with a subzero wind chill," Don said.

They started the walk roped together, but quickly discarded the rope after realizing the ice was plenty thick. They used a compass to determine their direction of travel until they could see the island. Ivan had consulted the Beaver Island Boat Company on the best direction of travel.

The February 28th edition of the Charlevoix Courier gave the following account of the walk according to the

brothers:

They ran into knee-deep snow which was crusted over about two hours out of Charlevoix which made the going rough and slowed them down. In most places the ice was quite rough though they did walk over some blue ice. The toughest part of the hike came at the end where the ice had broken away from the southeast shoreline of Beaver Island, drifted out, and then was windrowed as it was blown onto the shore. Tired and weary, they had about one and a half hours of this at the end of the trip which took them just eight and a half hours.

The brothers' progress across the ice was monitored by local pilot Joe McPhillips, who flew his usual route to and from the island that day.

As the pair approached the southern shore of Beaver Island, near Cable Bay, they could see a bonfire on the beach. A group of locals had traveled down the Island by snowmobiles to greet them as they came ashore.

"They waited for us to get all the way to land before they offered us assistance, I want to be clear on that," Don stresses.

Without much celebration on shore, the two were taken by snowmobile north up to St. James. The brothers were



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There is a driveway already on the lot leading to the building site and the view is partially cleared. The two new homes (Young's and Miller's) that are to the south are both on double lots. Since 100 foot wide Sand Bay lots are now selling for about \$160,000 each this is a good buy at **\$145,000.**

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Jeanie Johnston Underway

treated to a dinner at the Shamrock Bar in their honor by the Civic Association.

According to Don, "I remember Ivan and I were thinking how ironic it was that the one time that the drinks would have been on the house for us at the Shamrock, we weren't drinking."

Over a decade later, their feat would be repeated by some of their kin. Second cousins Ed and John Whitley and their friend Dave Swanson, all of Charlevoix, crossed in the month of February in 1977. They also had no trouble making the crossing, except for going a bit out of their way as they approached shore.

"We made a mistake by not following our compass after we could see land. An optical illusion led us to walk several miles more than we should have," Ed said. Their crossing took them a little over ten hours. According to Ed, they had planned on continuing the walk onto Naubinway in the Upper Peninsula the next day, however, upon reaching the island they learned the Coast Guard Cutter Mackinaw had broken open the shipping lane in that direction that very day.

—Dennis Whitley, Marquette Michigan (son of Ivan, nephew of Don)

The *Jeanie Johnston* finally began her long awaited trans-Atlantic voyage this week, on Sunday the 16th of February. The weather was cold, with piercing south easterly gales, but many thousands of well-wishers turned out at Fenit pier, Co. Kerry to cheer the ship on her way. There were speeches by Government Ministers, local Councillors and dignitaries, then an ecumenical blessing. The Army Band played rousing sea shanties. The biggest cheer of the afternoon was heard when the Irish flag was raised, reflecting the County's pride in the ship, which has come through so many tribulations to fulfil her destiny. Gale force winds made it impossible for the ship to raise full sails, but she headed out of Tralee Bay accompanied by a flotilla of small boats, the Fenit Life Boat, and the navy vessel LE Eithne.

Jeanie has been unable to sail out of Irish waters so far, as the Captain deems



it prudent to wait out the gales in Valentia Harbour, also affording another opportunity for crew training in preparation for the Atlantic. *Jeanie* carries a crew of 40, under her Captain, Tom McCarthy from Cork. The crew includes 15 professionals, and 24 enthusiastic amateur sailors, including sail trainees from the north and south of Ireland, and paying passengers.

At the very least, she'll slow down and tip her sails as she passes Beaver.

New Ferries crossing the Lake

Two new ferry companies have sprung up to offer service between Michigan and Wisconsin. The LEF Corporation plans to sail from St. Joseph to Racine, which has just spent \$20 million to upgrade its waterfront. The Grand Rapids-based company plans to run a 500 passenger boat (but no vehicles) on the under-two-hour trip. The other company, Lake Express, hopes to run a high speed car ferry between Muskegon and Milwaukee.

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Bellamy Memorial Service

A down-state Memorial Service was held for Mel and Judy Bellamy on a day when everything cooperated but the wether. A few Beaver Islanders drove down early, but those who planned to drive down or take the Island Airways' chartered plane were prevented from doing so by the blizzard that closed everything down. Still, 400 people attended, 325 of whom stayed for the meal that followed.

The service itself, conducted by Reverend Britton, was very moving. Mel's spiritual mentor spoke, as did Jennifer, who read her poem about her parents, and Mike, who revealed that, throughout his upbringing, what his parents stressed was character and faith, and what he remembered most was *their* character and faith. The service itself was modeled on the Bible Study classes that were held in their cottage at Cable's Bay. A video collage was shown that included scenes of Mel and Judy as kids, them growing up, meeting, falling in love, and footage of several great moments in their life.

Just as their classes featured music, so did the service. Psalm 23 was read, a band played, and five songs were sung,

starting with Mel's favorite, "He's still working on me," a message he felt was exemplified by his life. The printed words were fed into a projector, and the gathering turned into an emotional sing-along that eliminated every single dry eye. The theme was, "I'm Free," taken from a poem that ended,

*Lift up your heart and share with me,
God wanted me now. He set me free.*

A similar service is planned for Beaver Island this summer, on July 27th.

—Tina Morgan

CCCF News

The Spring 2003 grant funding cycle is underway. The CCCF and the Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation invite grant requests. The Foundations and their Youth Advisory Committees (YACs) will review proposals to help fund health initiatives, community development projects, education, the arts and cultural events, environmental efforts, and human service programs.

Charlevoix's Chicago Club just donated \$5,000 to the Community Pool so it would qualify for a \$10,000 Frey Foundation operations grant.



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Beaver Island High!

The last six weeks I have been on a Beaver Island High! No, I'm not talking about drugs here, or sniffing glue, or chewing on psychedelic mushrooms—I'm talking about SUNSHINE. Remember John Denver and how he sang about sunshine on his shoulder making him happy and how high he got just being in the Rocky Mountains? Well I too get high from sunshine!

January was an amazing example of how to survive in northern Michigan without snow. For most of the month you could hike any trail over nothing more than fallen leaves. The Keubler was clear and unobstructed as were many of the upland trails in the Port St. James. If you ignored the fact that it was cold you couldn't ignore the sunshine. The coldest my wireless weather station recorded was 0.2 on January 22. The warmest day was January 8th at 40 degrees. I recorded sunshine for 21 days in January. To qualify, the sun had to be apparent for several hours. I also recorded peek-a-boo sun and that occurred on 4 additional days. That adds up to 25 days when we saw rays of sun. The morning

sky over the harbor would light the clouds and treetops, making them appear golden. The northern sky would glow soft pinks and mauve. Evening skies were equally impressive as afterglows from the setting sun lit the horizon and any clouds that were present. Finally on January 31 we had heavy snow making cross-country skiing possible.

February, so far, has produced another set of weather phenomena—incredible sunshine and unbelievable cold and lots of snow. I have recorded 15 days of sunshine and one day of peek-a-boo sun in the first 17 days. My wireless weather station recorded 6.7 degrees on the 17th.

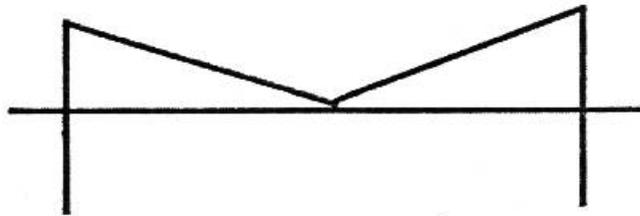
There were three days when the temperature got as high as 15 degrees (a heat wave, no doubt.) It has been a challenge to walk and snowshoe. Multiple layers have been necessary to protect from the bitter cold. But the winterscapes have been incredible. Out on the north shore there is a "mountain range" of peaks left by breaking waves before the lake froze over. Every morning these mountains are lit from the east; every evening

they're lit from the west. The nighttime skies have been a marvel. I swear, the stars look like diamond studs in black velvet until the moon appears. The moon's light lasts until shortly after 7 a.m. when it sets over Lake Michigan just like the sun in July and August. The woods are breathtakingly beautiful. The snow sparkles and squeaks and covers the spruce and pine trees like meringue on cake.

Yes it's cold. But I wouldn't trade one ray of sunshine to live any other place but Beaver Island in the winter. So bundle up, button down, walk out, and get high!
—Lois Williams

Chili Cook-off

A Chili Cook-off will be held Monday March 10th at the Peaine Township Hall. Have Chilies ready by 4:30. Judging will start at 5:00 (everyone is welcome to watch the judging too.) Then everyone can start enjoying the Chilies from 5:30 - 7:30. Also there will be cornbread and deserts. And did we mention, lots of great Chili! Free will donation to benefit the BI Sports Boosters. Call Diane McDonough with any questions at 448-2164.



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One Hundred Years Ago

Charlevoix Sentinel

March 5, 1903 Local News:

"The fish hatchery is in full operation. Monday night Mr. Platts arrived from Detroit with a consignment of trout eggs, and they were at once placed in the tanks. Mr. Platts will have charge of the plant, and Leslie Giddings has been engaged as night watchman. Another consignment of trout eggs is expected soon, and later it is expected that whitefish eggs will be put in process of hatching."

Beaver Island News: "Prospects point to an early opening of navigation."

"Three or four loads of Garden Island people were over to attend the funeral of Jas. Gibson."

"The public schools were closed Thursday forenoon on account of the funeral of Director Gibson."

"Mrs. Annie E. Gallagher is very low with heart disease little hope being entertained for her recovery."

"The ice is all out of the mouth of the harbor and McCann's dock at the point can be easily reached by boat."

"The many friends of Miss Nellie Green will be glad to learn that she is rapidly convalescing from her severe illness."

"Mrs. James Donlevy gave a very pleasant evening at cards to about 50 friends among the married people of the harbor a few evening since. The guests were served with appetizing refreshments and all returned to their homes feeling that Mr. and Mrs. Donlevy are royal entertainers. A collection was taken for the benefit of the Ladies Sodality, which organization is buying the curtains and linen for the Parish Houses on the hill."

"On Tuesday evening, February 24 Jas. Gibson, one of the oldest settlers and most respected citizens of B. I. passed away after an illness of nearly four month. Mr. Gibson was born on Beaver Island in 1859, his parents who moved to the Island the previous year being among the first white settlers after the expulsion of the Mormons. In 1880 he was married to Miss Mary McCann, who with four children, Eva, Margaret, Julia and Mary, still survive him. He also leaves his mother, Mrs. Julia Gibson, three sisters and one brother Mrs. Sarah Bailey, of Mackinaw Island, Mrs. W. F. Gill and Miss Ida Gibson of the Island and Mr. William Gibson of Petosky. For many years he had held the position of postmaster, two years as town treasurer and

for a long time a valued member of the school board, Vice President of the C. M. B. A. and a faithful communicant of Holy Cross Catholic Church. In 1902 he went to the University Hospital at Ann Arbor for the treatment of a serious malady of the throat, and after a six weeks stay there, returned to the island with no hopes of being cured. He was quite resigned to his fate and was never heard to complain of his lot though hard it was to be. He was to the end always more solicitous about his dear ones than for himself. Although a great sufferer through most of his sickness, his last hours were peaceful and without pain. He was a dutiful son, a kind brother, and a loving and considerate husband and father. The funeral occurred Thursday morning at the church and he was interred at Holy Cross Cemetery."

March 12, 1903 Marine News: "Work of cutting out the steamer BEAVER has been commenced, and Captain Campbell will probably make his first trip to the Island some time next week."

March 19, 1903 Marine News: "The BEAVER will probably make her first trip to the Island Monday next."

"John Martin, brother of the

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Beaver Island Martins, and formerly a captain of a Hart boat, will go as chief mate of the ILLINOIS this season."

March 26, 1903 Local News: "The steamer BEAVER had a good run to the Island yesterday, and the only ice seen on the trip was in Cundy Gallagher's refrigerator."

"Charlevoix has come to be the annual rendezvous of light-keepers in the spring, in getting to their several stations. The past week they have been as plentiful here as fleas on a yellow dog."

Marine News: "The steamer BEAVER made the first trip to the Island Wednesday, with a good sized passenger list and a drayload of mail."

Beaver Island News: "The entrance to Beaver Harbor is entirely free from ice."

"McCann's red ice house has been moved from the old stand onto a crib over the water along side their dock."

"Gordon and Dahimer have a dock built on their waterfront north of Bonner's dock."

"Messrs. Jos. Left, Clarence Bissell and Jos. Brown have quit fishing through the ice and now have their nets in open water at the mouth of the harbor."

"McCann's fishing crew began work this week Monday—their tug MARGARET McCANN is fitted out ready to fish as soon as they can break through to their store dock for coal. She tried to get through the ice on Thursday but found it too thick in the more sheltered portion of the harbor. The mouth of the harbor and for quite a distance in is all open."

"Martin Bros. Are at work stringing their nets, and have their tug ELLIOT fitted up for spring fishing."

"The men from the lumber camps of the Morrow Bros., are in the harbor waiting to get away on the first boat."

"The B. I. Lumber Co. Have bought the timber gotten out by Gill and Green's camp."

"Captain Bonner has a large mount of cedar on the banks of Hog and High Islands ready for the first schooner."

"March 15 Peter D. Gallagher and wife were made happy by the advent of a son."

"Capt. Johnson did four days plowing last week."

"Mrs. Annie E. Gallagher died at her home on March 17 from Chronic vascular disease of the heart. She was born in Toronto in 1856 and was brought by her parents to Beaver Island

in 1859. She was married in 1875 and bore six children, since 1893 when her husband died she had managed the farm and raised her family, but overworked herself so that for more than a year she has been in very poor health. The death of her eldest son who was killed last December by a log rolling on him while in the woods alone, contributed largely to her own demise. All who knew her gave her great credit for the heroic manner with which she battled against adverse circumstances in raising her large family. Those of her children who survive her are Misses Mary and Bridget who are ladies grown and the two younger ones Annie and Willie. She was a member of the L.O.T.M. of Escanaba tent and one of the Ladies Sodality of the Catholic Church of Beaver Island. Funeral occurred March 20."

"Since Mr. A. Malloy has remodeled the Pratt building for a meat market Beaver Island has as neat a place for storage and sale of meats as any one could ask for and just as neat a man to attend to their wants in that line. He handles all kinds of fresh, salt, smoked and canned meats, in the most satisfactory manner."

—Joyce Bartels

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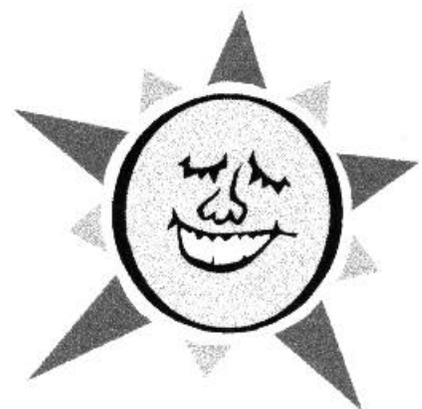
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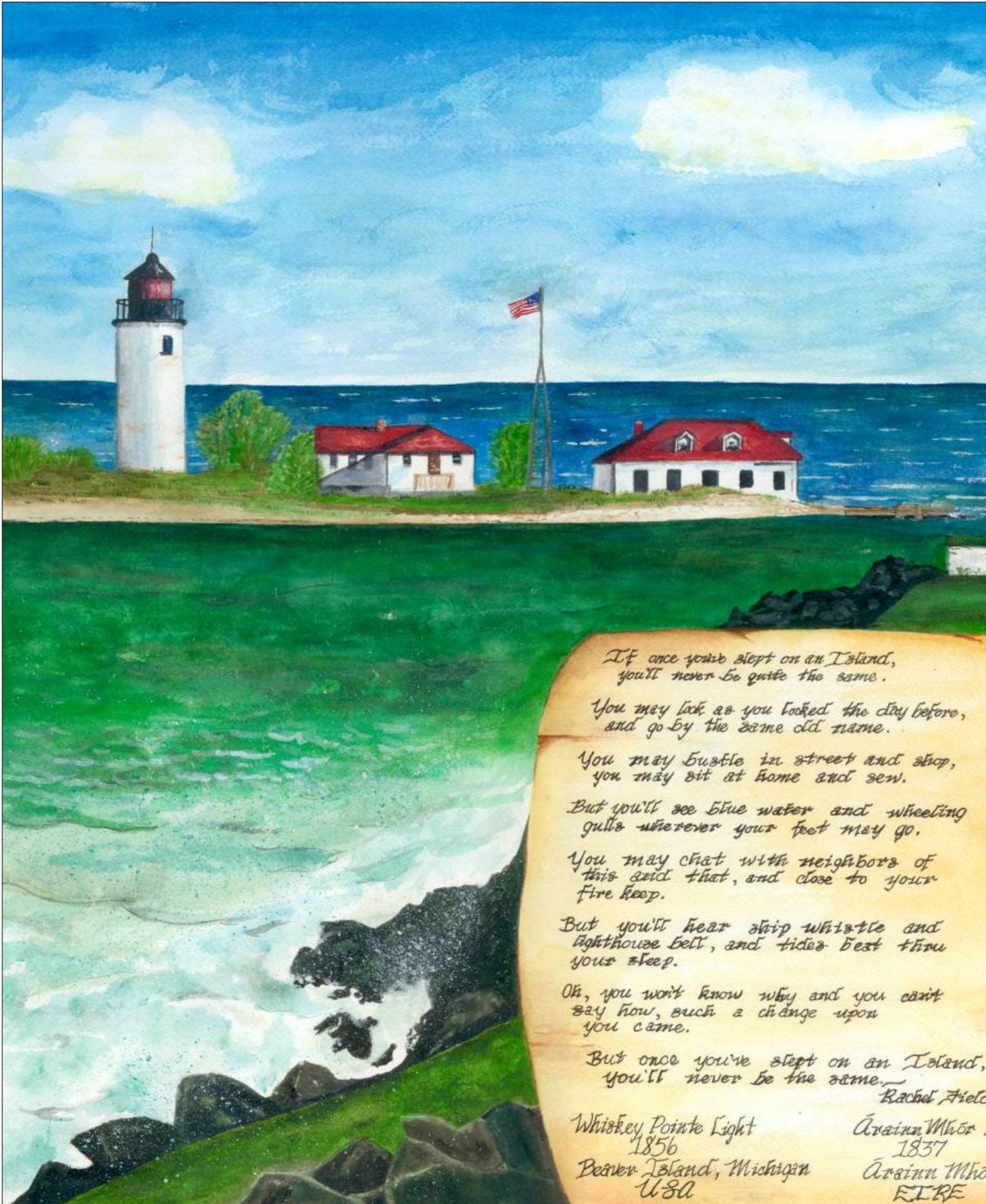
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You may look as you looked the day before,
and go by the same old name.

You may bustle in street and shop,
you may sit at home and sew.

But you'll see blue water and wheeling
gulls wherever your feet may go.

You may chat with neighbors of
this and that, and close to your
fire keep.

But you'll hear ship whistle and
lighthouse bell, and tides beat thru
your sleep.

Oh, you won't know why and you can't
say how, such a change upon
you came.

But once you've slept on an Island,
you'll never be the same.

Rachel Field

Whiskey Pointe Light
1856

Beaver Island, Michigan
USA

Árainn Mhór
1837

Árainn Mhór
EIRE

The Twinning Ceremony

The schedule of events begins Thursday, March 6th:

The Beaver Islanders' main party will arrive at Dublin Airport (some have gone ahead.) A chartered bus will be there to convey them to a Hotel in Donegal Town, where they will stay overnight.

On Friday they'll take the noon ferry to our twin, Óilean Árinn Mhór. The Arranmore Pipe Band, members of the Local Community, and the Fáilte Committee will meet them and convey them to their accommodations. At 9:00 p.m. a buffet and entertainment will take place in the Pier Bar & lounge, featuring old time, céilí, and modern dancing. There will be a presentation by historian Charlie Ó Hara on the Arranmore / Beaver Island connection.

At 1:00 on Saturday the memorial at Loch and Cowanaigh will be unveiled by two youngsters from each community, followed by the presentation of a framed document by a representative of the Donegal County Council to the leaders of the Beaver Island Community Committee, who will deliver short speeches. This will be followed by the presentation of a traditional gift by the chairman of An Cóiste Fáilte for the Beaver Island Heritage Center and a thanking of the sponsors. In the afternoon a bus will tour town lands where Arranmore Islanders resided prior to evictions from their small holdings.

Church service will be held in Seipeál Naomh Croine.

At 9.30 p.m. céilí and sandwiches will be offered in Tomas Phil Bans Pub. The Americans will be sufficiently cautioned beforehand.

Departure is scheduled for Sunday on the 12.30 Ferry. The Community will be on the pier to say SlánAbhaile.

This beautiful watercolor by Cindy Gillespie will be one of the gifts presented by the Beaver Island contingent to Arranmore.



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News from the Townships

St. James Township, Feb. 5

St. James Township Board meeting with all members present. Reports:

At the January meeting of the Waste Management Committee: plans are going forward in search of a good used fork-lift or possibly a new one depending on price. Also pricing on adding cement to the front and back aprons at the doors of Transfer Station. Changes to be considered in benefits for employees when preparing new budget.

Received notification from United Designs, the Engineering Firm for the Municipal Yacht Dock Project, stating final permitting is stalled in Corps of Engineers. Five years have passed since this project first started so a major concern now is increase in prices to do the work.

Rich Gillespie and Grace Matella were re-appointed to the BITA for one month.

No decision has been made on where to place the World Trade Center Beam but John Works and Elaine West will be working on a location for the piece.

Resolution to upgrade Beaver Island Airport to Primary Air Carrier Status approved by Board.

Salary Resolution passed by Board which must be done at least 30 days prior to Annual Meeting. Salary changes recommended are Supervisor \$12,000; Clerk \$13,000; Treasurer \$12,000 and Trustees \$3,500 each.

Board approved their share of the Mineral Extraction Contract along with CCRC and Peaine Township to extract minerals from the Pingel property on East Side Drive.

A few interesting moments at the Feb. 12 Peaine Township meeting

Three presentations and the raising of a question by the Treasurer flavored February's regular Peaine Township meeting.

The first concerned the website Jeff Cashman proposed to construct for Peaine. The county hosts a site for all the townships, and a question was raised as to why Peaine did not simply accept this offer instead of hiring someone to design its site and regularly post material. The answer was that by having a local Beaver

Islander coordinate and build the web site, the Township should be able to move faster with the project and produce a more unique website which is built for the Township's specific needs. Peaine wants to demonstrate its pride in what it is doing, and wants a site that will represent it more accurately. It sees itself as a potential pioneer in this up-to-the-moment form of open government, and noted that none of the townships already appearing on the county site have found a way to include anywhere near as much information as it intends to: mission statements and descriptions of the township and all its various committees and subcommittees and their purpose, members, board profiles, and schedules; an extensive history of the Township; current minutes and a searchable archive of past minutes; the master plan and revised zoning ordinance; information on public land and access points, and several other kinds of information. Besides, it was said, even though the county would train a Board Member for free, the cost of sending someone over for a few sessions would exceed that of this contract, and there is no shortage of work for the Board members to do at present in this important time for the Island.

The next presentation was by Mike Scripps, who drove up to ask the Board for a motion of interest in the further development of the Townships' Airport. He pointed out that Island Airways had continued to express its interest in the possibility of relocating here. He said the over-twelve-million-dollar State Aviation Fund raised from ticket and fuel sales is distributed through the FAA to M-DOT each year in a formula that requires individual communities to supply between a 5 and 10% match, and that because our upgrade would push them to a plateau in which they would take in an additional million, there was a good chance some of that money would come here. If Island Airways relocates here, since they would no longer have to pay for field maintenance and improvement, this would no doubt hold down the inevitable increase of ticket costs. Expanding the terminal and improving the road to it would likely benefit the Island economy, he said. In response to a

question, he stated that planes could turn the other way to avoid passing over the more populated areas north of the field. He said the next step would be Department of Aeronautics' studies, and discussions to solicit input.

Terry Saxton reported on the Trails Committee's work on the Wagner Campground Trail, which runs diagonally into the Blue Trail. His volunteer group discovered that the beavers have impounded so much water with their six-step, 12'-high dam that many trees have been flooded and have tumbled over, including many with the original trail markings. The trail was so submerged in places that they simply could not follow it, and had to come in from the west end by first heading south on the Blue Trail from the continuation of the King's Highway. An audience member wondered about inducing trappers to thin out the beaver here. The supervisor thought he could get a permit from the DNR to allow after-season trapping, and remarked parenthetically that the Township might be willing to do something for the trappers to make their trip here more worthwhile. (Note: Island trapper Mark Valente has already taken almost 60 beaver.)

The meeting might have ended in an hour instead of the almost three it took if it wasn't for a thorny topic introduced by the new Treasurer, who had been alerted to it by MTA officials. This summer both Townships will collect the 6 mill education tax for the state, for which the state will pay them an extra \$2.50 per taxable parcel—there are 1,611 taxable parcels in Peaine. This 6 mills will be deducted from the winter tax bills. Apparently it's worth \$4,000+ to the State to get the school money before school starts; some schools have had to borrow against their receipt of funds to get started in September. The problem was, now the Treasurer's work would be almost doubled because of the second collection. Should she receive all or some of the State's \$4,000 contribution as fair compensation?

Tina Morgan, the new Treasurer, had spoken with several townships, and discovered that in many cases all of the per parcel State kick-back went to the Treasurer. She made a proposal to the

Board: since the Clerk and the Deputy Treasurer would also be involved in doing this extra work, she suggested the Treasurer receive \$2,500, the deputy \$500, and the Clerk \$875 (the equivalent of one month's salary.) This provoked a considerable debate because it would make the Treasurer the highest-paid member of the Board when it was felt, in some quarters, that the Treasurer, even with this added work, did not work harder than the rest of the board. The Clerk stated that she did not want any extra money, and the Deputy Treasurer from St. James Township said that her Board had decided that no extra money should be paid to anyone, which was fine with the St. James Treasurer.

The discussion seemed to be fueled by the feeling that this had been sprung on the Board without sufficient advance notice, and yet it had to be settled by a resolution at this meeting in order to be presented to the constituents at Peaine's Annual Meeting on March 22. A previous suggestion to do a time study on the Board's officers to determine what their fair salary should be had been tabled, so no one knew if the Treasurer should be paid extra for doing extra work, or, as some suggested, was already being paid enough to cover the additional effort. The matter was further complicated by the fact that additional components of the winter tax bill might be switched to the summer, such as local funding for the school (as opposed to the State's education fund), and the school may then want to contract with the Board and its Treasurer to do this second bit of extra work. The fact that a 2.8% cost-of-living increase had just been approved was another complicating factor.

After almost two hours of animated discussion a compromise was resolved: to divide the \$4,000 State kick-back as follows: \$500 for the extra postage required for the extra bills; \$2,000 for the Treasurer; \$500 for her deputy; and \$1,000 for the Clerk, who was seen as already working very, very hard. This passed, 3 to 2, and allowed everyone to go home, but grumbling from both sides started in early the next day. When this resolution is presented at the Annual Meeting there will no doubt be some interesting remarks.

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A Follow-up Meeting on Salaries

By Wednesday afternoon, February 19th, the Peaine Township Board members had had enough time to reconsider the pay adjustments they had passed the previous week, and called a special meeting to modify their previous action. That this was of great general interest was shown by the presence of 21 people, including all five members of the Board.

The meeting's format was to discuss each Township officer in sequence, starting with the Clerk. The Supervisor proposed a \$1,500 increase from the current \$10,500 salary on the grounds that the Clerk's work has been increasing almost daily. The Clerk, Colleen Martin, did not dispute that but said she was content with her present salary, and since the new budget had not been finalized, she wasn't sure the Township could afford such a raise. But various members of the audience spoke up on her behalf so strongly that the unseconded motion was withdrawn and replaced with a motion to give her a \$2,000 increase. This passed, with the Clerk's nay being the only dissension.

The Supervisor, John Works, suggested a COL increase for his position. Paul Nelson had researched what Michigan's COL increase had been for 2002, getting an answer from Bart Stupak: 2.4%, which would mean a \$350 increase from the Supervisor's current salary of \$12,500. The Supervisor indicated this would be acceptable, but a show of hands by the audience convinced other Board members this would not be enough so he was voted a \$1,000 raise instead.

The Treasurer's position was next. Board member Judy Lanier clarified a point that had not been clear at the previous meeting: the \$2.50/parcel state payment to the Township for collecting the summer tax *had to be* spent on the costs of this collection

There was quite a bit of talk about what our township officers are paid compared to those of other townships: we are much higher, but, then again, they do much more work because of our size and growth. There was some talk about whether or not our Treasurer should have understood that while her job description did not include collecting the summer tax, she should

have known that this would become part of it because talk about it was in the air. One estimate of what this added work involved was 3 minutes per parcel, or 4811 minutes, or 80 hours. Our Treasurer thought this was too low, in part because she was endeavoring to bring a higher degree of order to her records and this was proving difficult and time-consuming. "Don't get me wrong," she said. "I like doing this. I love my job. But I want to have all the facts at hand for any question about taxes. I call this customer service, and that's why I was elected, to straighten out these things."

In the end, Paul made a motion that her regular salary be increased by the COL increase, 2.4%, which is \$252, bringing it to \$10,752, plus an additional \$2,000 for each year in which the summer tax is collected. This passed with one nay. Then the remaining two trustees were awarded a \$1,000 increase each, bringing them to \$4,481, with a nay from Judy Lanier, who said that even though the work justified this increase, she had taken the job to contribute to the community.

The meeting ran an hour and a half.



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Road Rally

By the infamous Beth Green Lucas, to benefit the Preservation Association of Beaver Island. Sunday, May 11th, beginning at 2:00 p.m.

All entries (cars) will be sponsored by Beaver Island and Charlevoix businesses.

Call Joan at 448-2092 for rally details or to sign up for the fun!

Other upcoming events to benefit PABI include a Sunrise Breakfast in June, a 10k race in early fall, and, back by popular demand, the Sunset Picnic at Donegal Bay on August 16th.

Thanks for supporting this worthy cause.



St. Patrick's Day Festivities

On Saturday, March 15th, St. Patrick's Day festivities will begin at the Shamrock at 1:00 PM.

There will be the Shopping Cart Race (5-man Teams); the traditional Tug-O-War between the Fishchockers and the Hayseiders; and both a Women's and Men's Fish Toss. Live fish will no longer be sanctioned for this event.

The Fish Stomp will use 4-person teams, whereas the much discussed Precision Poking will use the easier-to-form 2-person teams.

This year entries in the annual Limerick Contest will no longer have to confine their subject to cheese, although the King and Queen contestants will each have to name at least seven varieties (Velveeta doesn't count.) Quick: name a half-dozen words that rhyme with shillalah.



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On This Date

Ten Years Ago: The March '93 *Beacon* opened with a report of a victory in the Townships' battle with the Charlevoix County Road Commission. The Townships had brought four charges: 1) the CCRC failed to carry out its duties to rebuild and keep up King's Highway; 2) the CCRC was negligent in performing these duties; 3) this failure led to environmental problems; and 4) the CCRC broke its contract to repave the highway. The CCRC asked for summary dismissal of all four charges. Judge Pajtas dismissed #4 because no written contract could be found, but upheld the others, so that the case was headed for trial—unless a settlement can be arranged.

The Chamber of Commerce, which asked both townships for \$2,500, announced its plan to obtain and restore the Dockside Market to make it into a Community Center. It foresaw that such a facility could be self-supporting because it could be leased for parties

and community functions. It said no tax dollars would be involved; instead, donations would be sought to cover the expenses.

The Wildlife Club announced its plans: pruning apple trees, planting clover and winter wheat, distributing vitamins and minerals for the deer, and, in conjunction with CMU, rearing 30,000 walleye fry in a pond and then distributing them to the inland lakes. They offered free birdseed, and asked for suggestions on bringing the perch back to the Harbor to restore the legendary GoldenAge of Island fishing.

The three finalists in the design of a Beaver Island flag were depicted.

The Glendons announced that Kitty McNamara no longer had the time to act as editor of the *Beacon*, and consequently they were seeking a replacement for her.

The winners of the limerick contest were announced, including this one from Ellen Welke:

There's an island off Ireland called
Arran
Where the landscape is rugged and
barren.

Well, the Greens said, enough,
This life here's too rough,
And found their own Emerald Isle
in Lake Michigan.

The St. Patrick's Day events were reported: the parade; the "new and improved" shopping cart race; the tug-of-war between the Hayseeds and the Fishchokers; the pitch-a-pike contest; and the Fish Stomp. Radio station WLTO was on hand all day to cover the festivities.

Twenty Years Ago: The *Beacon* reported on the Civic Association's Winter Games, held February 12th at Barney's Lake: ice-skating (obstacle course; backward speed; and relay), muzzle-loading, ice spudding, and cross-country skiing (distance, tandem, and 100-yard dash.) There were also snowmobile races: blindfolded, relay,



and slalom. At a party at the Shamrock that evening, Roy Ellsworth's walnut clock was raffled off, with music provided by Joe Moore, Rick Delamater, Amy Green, Jacque LaFreniere, Keach, and Dave Gladish.

Dana Gillespie won the regional essay contest sponsored by Farm Bureau Insurance. The topic for all contestants was, "Why I am important to America's future." Dana's essay stressed the value of technology and education (she thought each of us owe our children at least as good of an education as we received, and hopefully better), freedom and peace. She wanted to help provide better housing in America, and keep unemployment down. In other nominated essays Chris Speck talked about the importance of doing one's job; Jane Petrak said "I am going to live here all my life"; Ernest Martin declared that one day he would become Michigan's governor; and Jesse Kenwabikise hoped to help clean up our nation by reducing crime on the street:

"With the help of other people, we can clean it up. Our nation would be the best nation in the world. To me, that's all I want."

In other school news, Joe Moore gave a demonstration of the new Atari computer, and Jeremy Barrett received a gold medal for reading the most books.

There was a mention of a trip taken 27 years earlier: Charley Martin and some friends drove their car to Hog Island. When they returned, James Gallagher said, "That's nothing. One winter I drove the ice all the way to Chicago. And back!"

The passing of A. J. Roy was noted. He and Mabel built a cottage in St. James in 1951, paying Walter Wojan the unheard-of amount of \$1 per hour. In 1956 he bought the Mormon Print Shop and founded the Beaver Island Historical Society.

Thirty Years Ago: Sheldon Parker related several facts about the Island's wildlife: thanks to the mild winter, the deer have moved up from their feeding

yards at the south end earlier than usual. Tracks were seen on Font Lake. Turkeys were seen at the airport, and the raccoons were out in numbers as well. DNR officer Bill Wagner built some geese nesting platforms on poles above the water to encourage the formation of a native colony. Perry Gatliff has been trying to find some perch in the harbor, but so far has only taken 3 menominee and a sucker.

Sue Montague reported on the Med Center Auxiliary's fund-raising efforts. A rummage sale was planned for the summer, and books of trading stamps were asked to be donated.

Ron Wojan made the Dean's List at WMU.

Passings noted included Elston Pischner, who had been working as a jail guard for the Phoenix police department after having been a county road commissioner here; Harvey Cornstalk, born on Beaver but living in Detroit with his brother Frank for the past five years and

Continued on page 25



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On This Date, Continued from Page 23 survived by, among others, his grandfather, George Washagesik; and Sister Mary Clare Malloy. Sister Mary Clare was born as Susan Gertrude Malloy on Beaver Island in 1891, one of 13 children of Buffalo Malloy, and was Frank Nackerman's cousin. Three of her sisters also became nuns. Frank offered this memory: "When she heard about my mother's illness, she came across the ice in a sleigh to see if she could help. Due to the rough ice, even though they left early in the morning they didn't arrive until dark. Another woman came with her, Mary Harlem Gallagher, whose mother was also sick. When a Chicago paper heard about what Mary Harlem went through to get home, they sent a reporter up here in a plane and printed the story of these two brave and determined women. She told the reporter that when the sleigh driver suggested turning back, she told him that if he did to just let her out and she'd walk the rest of the way if she had to."

Forty Years Ago: The 1963 *Beacon* had more news about the two

Whitley brothers who walked here from Charlevoix (according to their niece Joanne, Don wore only a light jacket, khaki pants, and no hat, and Ivan wore sunglasses, at least.) Joe McPhillips kept tabs on them during his flights of that day, and alerted the Islanders when they bogged down off Sand Bay. Walter Wojan took his snow scooter out onto the ice and found them five miles from shore. When he brought them to town and got them thawed out, they became the guests of honor at a smorgasbord staged by the Civic Association, held at the Shamrock.

Last year (1962) Archie LaFreniere decided to get an early start on the season and found a little open water in which to launch his boat. After screwing down the outboard, he pulled on the cord, anticipating that it would take several yanks to get it going. But for some reason it started on the first pull, for which he was unprepared. It was as though he'd yanked the tale of a tiger: the motor roared, the bow went up and the stern down, and Archie wound up waist deep in the freezing water. So this

year Archie played it safe, heading out onto the ice in his truck instead of in a boat, but it was the same result: just past an ice ridge off Sand Bay, his front wheels broke through. Remembering the previous year's escapade, he got out to survey his predicament. Luckily so: the truck began to settle, and bottomed out five feet down. He and Karl Kuebler, who was with him, hiked to town to look for a winch truck.

The coyote population decreased by one when Frank O'Donnell and Lawrence McDonough spotted one from Frank's house and got Archie to put his dogs on the trail. Archie and Perry Gatliff set off after the manic dogs, but the coyote fooled them by doubling back—unfortunately right into the waiting sights of Rogers Carlisle, who was rabbit hunting nearby and dispensed it with a single shot. Ed Wojan set traps for coyote, but came up empty—except for 3 fox, one of which had been killed in the trap by a coyote. This didn't count against him: he still was the only 10th grader on the spring honor roll.



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The Grand Rapids Party

The 36th annual Grand Rapids – Beaver Island party took place on Valentine's Day this year, and drew just over 200 happy people to the Airport Hilton. Many arrived on Friday and stayed through Sunday to renew old ties or wander through a big city. The organizers secured



a major discount on rooms and meals, and other partyers were content to revel in the Hilton's luxury.

Seventeen years ago this tradition was in trouble, with only the committee members showing up at the old Diamond Street Hall to listen to tapes and CDs. The possibility of having live music was put forward, and a handful of Beaver Island musicians, plus some of the stalwarts like Ed Sobey, showed up, pushed the DJ off the stand, and took over. The news had gone out, so that

event was quite a success, and its popularity has increased every year since.

This year Hilary Palmer, the Island's premier yodeller, joined Cindy Cushman-Gillespie and her brother Danny, Rich and Mike Scripps, fiddlers Glen Hendrix and Glen McDonough, and Mr. Old-time Music, Ed Palmer—who on occasion jumped

down off the stage to dance a jig but got back up in time for his solo. The portable dance floor, which will be even larger next year, was well polished by all the heels, including Lester Doney's (center picture); the Island's former "best dancer" had a good time despite being told he has only a few months left. The 50/50 paid \$240, and the winner of the Basket of Joy is still nursing her memories of this wonderful night. At the end, a cry went up that was borrowed from the Tigers and Lions: "Just wait 'til next year!"

Thanks very much to Paul Cole, Cathy Kohn, and Ed Palmer for the photographs and the story!



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Charlevoix County Commission

The Board met at 7:00 p.m. on **January 22, 2003**. All Commissioners were present. A motion approved the January 8, 2003 meeting minutes. A motion denied reimbursement to Eveline Preservation Group based on an opinion presented by Prosecuting Attorney.

A motion approved Resolution #03-001, Hauler's Agreement. A motion approved Resolution #03-002, 2003-2005 Emergency Shelter Grant. A motion approved Resolution #03-003, County Clerk Computers. A motion approved Resolution #03-004, District Court Attorney Magistrate.

A motion approved Resolution #03-005, Law Enforcement Training Group. A motion approved 4-year request for cellular funds. Commission Roloff was appointed liaison to Northwest Human Services. A motion adjourned the meeting.

Special Meeting

The Charlevoix County Board of Commissioners met at 3:00 p.m. on January 29, 2003. All Commissioners were present. A motion approved the retaining of the firm of Bodman, Longley & Dahling to handle Labor & Employment issues for Charlevoix County and authorized the Chairman to sign said agreement, with Commissioner Roloff voting nay. A motion adjourned the meeting.

February 12th

Synopsis: The Charlevoix County Board of Commissioners met at 3:00 p.m. on February 12, 2003. Chairman Frykberg was absent.

Motion approved Resolution #03-006, Sheriff's Vehicle Purchase, which authorizes an additional \$7,000 to help pay for the purchase of 2 new vehicles. \$36,000 was budgeted.

Motion approved Resolution #03-007, Clerk's Phone System. \$6,200.00 for a new phone system.

Motion approved Resolution #03-008, COA Agreement with Health Department, to provide community health nursing services to residents of Charlevoix County age 60 or over. Motion approved Resolution #03-009, County Website Maintenance & Support, \$1,800 for on-going support throughout 2003.

Motion approved Resolution #03-011, Transit Resolution of Intent. 2003/2004 grant application, which represents a 3% increase over the current budget. Motion approved Resolution #03-012, Sergeants and Detective Sergeants Agreement, and authorized the Chairman to sign said agreement.

Motion adjourned the meeting. –Jane E. Brannon, County Clerk

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Letters to the Editor

Much controversy surrounds the new Rural Health Center plans. In my travels I have heard very few who are excited at the prospect of a large, expensive new building that will still only fulfill "trauma" situations where patients will be transferred to the mainland for care. All I have heard in recent years is that the clinic can barely stay afloat operating the present facilities with current funding. Even though the money received can be classified as a "gift" I believe we are moving forward in too much of a knee-jerk fashion to get construction underway. If the clinic were going to house a doctor or much improve the medical care of the community, then it should be built. If we are building to spend the money (which could be held until it grows or until such time as better plans can be laid) I fear that the taxpayers of this community will be choking on ballot proposals for operating funds until they turn blue! No one is interested in more taxation, so I urge the medical committee board members to use caution where it is due. A battle royale will ensue if we are forced to provide more tax dollars for the same basic services. In these economic times conservatism is the most important thing we can exercise.

—Rich Gillespie

Thanks from the Fire Department Auxiliary

The Beaver Island Fire Department and Auxiliary thanks those who donated to and attended the New Year's Eve party. Our profit totaled \$666.24, due largely to the generosity of those who were present. We would like to thank those who contributed.

This being our first year organizing a New Year's party, we realized there were a few kinks we need to work out. We have heard many comments about the kid's karaoke. Most thought it was nice that the kids and young adults had somewhere to go. We think it would be great to have them attend from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. next time. There was concern about having a DJ instead of a live band, but we felt that continuous music would be a benefit to all. Mike & Sharon Hurkmans did a wonderful job. We would be glad to hear any suggestions or comments. Please call Sheri Timsak at 448-2510 or Dawn Marsh at 448-2910

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Calendar of Events

- | | |
|----------|---|
| March 5 | St. James Twp. Meeting
7 PM. St. James Twp Hall. |
| March 8 | House Party at Karen and Adam Wirth's, 2 - 6 PM |
| March 10 | Chili Cook-Off, Peaine Township Hall (page 13) |
| March 12 | Peaine Twp. Meeting
7 PM Peaine Twp. Hall |
| March 13 | Trails Committee
6:30 PM, Peaine Twp. Hall |
| March 13 | Wildlife Club, 7:30 PM
St. James Fire Hall |
| March 15 | St. Patrick's Celebration
1 PM (see page 21) |
| March 18 | BIRHC, 7 PM, St. James Twp. Hall |
| March 18 | Partnership Project, 12:30,
Peaine Twp. Hall |
| March 22 | Annual Peaine & St. James
Township Public Meetings |



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