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Contents

January 2005



Ulysses McCann with his Iceboat

News from the Townships	4.
Fifty Years of <i>Beacons!</i>	7.
Santa and Wife Arrive; School Christmas Program	8.
On This Date	10.
Breaking Ice for the Last Fuel Run	15.
New East Side Fire Hall	16.
A Review of EIR's <i>Where Are You Christmas?</i>	18.
Island Family Travels from Coast to Coast to pick up new yacht	20.
Historical Society Progresses	22.
GLE Explains Outage	24.
Barking Squirrels, Blind Mice, and other Hunting Tails	25.
<i>Thirty-two Miles of Water</i>	26.
Christmas Cantata	28.
Maylone Enterprises Proposed Broadband Link to Include Beaver Island	31.
One Hundred Years Ago	33.

Beaver Beacon

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

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News from the Townships

Joint Township Meeting

The full Boards of both Townships met together on December 6th to consider bids received by that morning for cutting all the trees on 22 acres east of the Townships' Airport. Five bids had arrived, but one was not valid because the bid bond check had not been included (the contractor called to say he had found it on his desk after mailing his bid, but it was too late.) The estimate had been \$30,000, but the bids were higher—including a high bid of \$289,900.

The low bid was local, from R. Gillespie Enterprises, at \$44,660. In a previous bidding of other property west of the runway (this is east, across Donnel Mor's Lane) the low bid was \$3,000/acre, so this bid seemed fair and was unanimously approved by both Town Boards. The bidder promised to do extra work: remove all the stumps and create leveled, mowable ground. (The Townships' Engineer said all bidders offered this; with the danger of punctured tires and sprung tread, it was the way to proceed.)

Most of the money will come from the FAA. Beaver Island has qualified for grants of up to \$150,000 a year, and has three years in which to apply for and spend this money. We have \$30,000 left from the available funds of 2002 and all the money from 2003 and 2004. The FAA is reducing the local match from 5% to 2½%, and it was unclear what ours would be.

With Engineering and other costs, it was unanimously decided to apply for a \$55,000 grant; both decisions were made simultaneously by the Boards of each Township. The Boards noted that they (and the Airport Committee, and the FAA) would be insured against liability of \$1,000,000 via a binder that would be in the contract they would later sign.

Several members seemed to believe this tree clearing was excessive, but once the FAA recommended it, if it was not done and an accident was caused by an uncut tree, they could be held liable. So there was no choice but to follow through.

In a handshake agreement, two additional trees on the Paradise Bay Coffee Shop land will also be removed.

The work is to be finished by May 15th.

St. James Township Board

St. James Township held its December meeting a week late. After announcing that the South End Fire Truck had arrived on Beaver Island, appointments were made to the Board of Review: Pinky Harmon, Jayne Bailey, and Jim McDonough (for 2-year terms.)

A question was raised about the downtown sidewalk snowplowing: should it continue as it is, or should the east side sidewalk on Main Street go unplowed but the west side sidewalk be plowed all the way to McDonough's

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Market and the Bank?

The furnace at the old DNR Building quit working; Johnny Robert said the heat exchanger had cracked. A decision was made to replace it with a propane furnace (the fuel oil just delivered can be moved to another Township location.) Two bids for propane and a tank were opened, and the contract given to the lower total bid, which came from Bud Martin.

The meeting was fairly uneventful until public comments were solicited. Members of the audience voiced their displeasure at our electric cable failing on the previous Saturday and the generators not kicking in. Some sentiment for organizing a non-payment of the ten-dollar surcharge was expressed. At the very least an explanation from the electric company was requested. One member of the audience pointed out that this was not the first time we'd been "left in the dark."

After adjourning, comments were made about the delay in the lot swap that was holding up the completion of the parking lot project: by not using a local firm to survey the land and write the correct legal descriptions, mistakes were made that took up time. The Township was reminded that a promise had been made to Phyllis Townsend to trim trees to enhance the view from her home, which is for sale now that she has passed away, and this promise must be honored. Evan Karnes will split the cost, roughly esti-

mated to be over \$2,000. Gary Voogt was commended for having envisioned this parking lot and pushing continuously to overcome several obstacles until it became a reality.

Peaine Township Board

Four BICS students appeared at the Peaine Township Board meeting to continue their push to gain permission to build a BMX track on Township land, but they met an insurmountable obstacle: the Township's Risk Control Representative had pointed out the serious liability issue that would arise. The Township would have to insure that all rules were being followed at all times—particularly the helmet requirement. The Township's attorney recommended that at least a \$5,000,000 insurance policy be procured, which would cost \$6,447/year. This was deemed more than the students could raise (in addition to the funds they would need to build the track), so the matter was dropped—even though the "BMX Club" had prepared an adequate contract proposal to Peaine Township. On the behalf of the Club, John Albin thanked the Board for its time.

Another land request was declined as well, made by the AmVets Post #46 for 10,000 ft² as a location for their Post Headquarters, a 24' x 62' donated double-wide modular building, turned down because it could create an unwanted precedent.

Continued on page 6.



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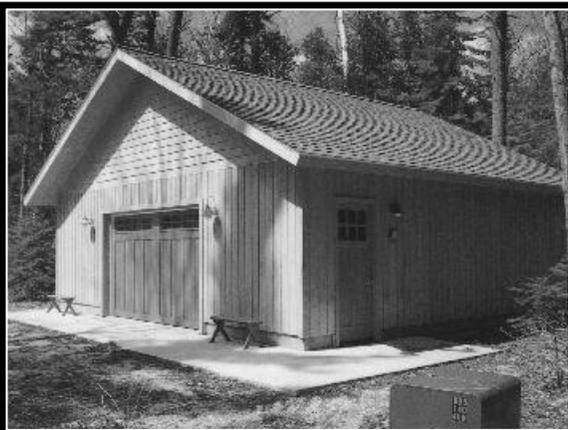
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News from the Townships, from page 5.

The architect for the East Side Fire Hall agreed to create plans for an addition to the Peaine Town Hall for \$3,500 (plans only; no inspection.) Because of egress requirements, though, this addition will not have a basement (for storage.) This offer was made by the architect when he arrived to inspect the progress of the Fire Station, which he found satisfactory.

The new Board (with two new members) volunteered for some positions: Pete LoDico was willing to act as the Township's representative on the Health Center Board (since he's already on it, this will help the BIRHC achieve its goal of reducing its Board); and Paul Welke will serve on both the Planning Commission and the Personnel Committee.

Terry Saxton suggested that the Township switch from the Petoskey News Review to the Charlevoix Courier for publishing its legal notices because the Courier has more readers in our County.

Many of the 17 people in the audience were present to comment on the proposed Noise Ordinance. The Township Attorney provided a letter stating the difficulty of fining a property

owner for activities of a renter: the owner would have to know about the offense in advance and approve it to be liable. Several quoted cases supported this view.

The proposed Ordinance was circulated as a single sheet. It had two sections, one making it illegal to make "any loud, unnecessary, or unusual noise or any noise which either annoys, disturbs, injures, or endangers the comfort, repose, health, peace, or safety of others...." The Ordinance also prohibits making a disturbance in any tavern or other public place or place of business. The second section dealt with the penalty, which was modified during discussion to \$200 for a first offense and \$500 for any offense thereafter. It also provides a method for documenting cases not personally observed by the Deputy, who will be the one to enforce this ordinance.

The general feeling was that this was a necessary addition to the rules governing Beaver Island, and although modification (or elimination) may be required in the future, it was a good place to begin. So a resolution was passed, and 35 days after the ordinance is published and the Sheriff is notified, it will take effect.

Mike Barrett's Book

East Side Drive resident Mike Barrett's new book of stories, *It's Saturday*, has just been released by Carnegie Mellon University Press.

A Deeper Escanaba

A just-completed \$308k feasibility study urged Escanaba to expand into a deep-water port. Two companies have offered to bid on this development.

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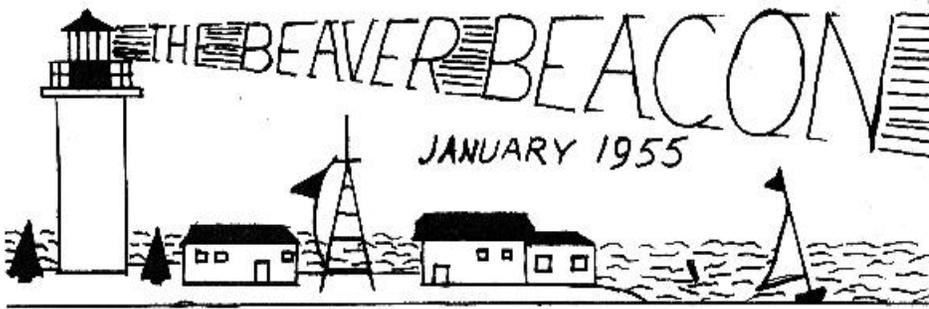
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Fifty Years of *Beacons!*

Fifty years ago, in January of 1955, the publishing world gasped in awe as the very first *Beaver Beacon* rolled off the press—or what passed for a press: a mimeo machine.

Beaver Island's population had been in decline for decades. It had held its own as well as anywhere during the war, but afterwards, when the mainland advanced into a bright, modern future, the ranks of those willing to make do with less decreased. Those who stayed formed the Civic Association to improve the business climate—which meant increasing tourism.

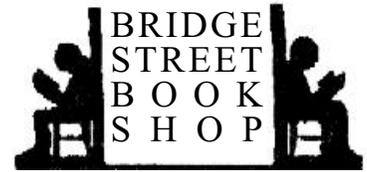
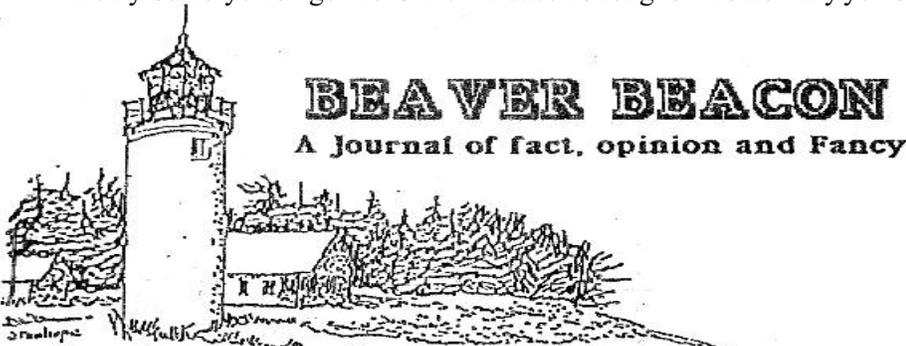
Someone suggested the Civic put out a newsletter, as the Rushin' Girls had done a decade before. With families scattered, something was needed to hold them together. A newsletter would let people know about hunting and fishing conditions. Besides, giving a free subscription to anyone who joined the Civic was a sure way to get that fledgling organization off the ground. So a handful of Islanders went to work, and the *Beaver Beacon* was born.

The first issues were filled with reports of who had come home for a visit. Hospital stays, marriages and births, and the DNR's weather reports—all went in. Soon Phil and Lil Gregg were putting out the monthly; with our leading storyteller on the job, the available space never went unfilled.

Twenty-some years ago the Civic

gave way to the Chamber, and the *Beacon* became the property of private owners. Some plans were frustrated by turns of events, and surrogate managers, composers, and editors kept the *Beacon* rolling out every month. Each one brought different skills and talents to the table and the *Beacon* began to take new shapes. The brilliance of the Stanhopes and the Glendons helped shape it, as did the chutzpah of media professional Chuck Hooker, who also brought a new formality to the *Beacon* through the composing work of the Sauters. And the fine ears-for-a-good-story of Liam and Marilyn Racine brought color and new creativity to its pages. During the last thirty months photography and color have increased, but the core remains the same: it is a community periodical, reporting on the twists and turns of Island government, the arrivals and passings of Island people, and the events that give Island life its unique, tantalizing flavor.

The current owners are guided by their love for the Island. Production runs from 1,200 winter copies to 1,400 in the summer, and constitutes half-time work for two people, who try to be responsible by listening to readers. The only criteria is, does it showcase the remarkable ambiance of Beaver Island and bring it honor? Hopefully this principle will keep the *Beaver Beacon* strong for another fifty years.



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Santa (and wife) Arrive

Once again the Emerald Isle Hotel accelerated the run-up to Christmas by hosting an AmVets-sponsored event:

the arrival of Santa and Mrs. Claus (the always merry Bob and Peggy Hoogendoorn) at its 2nd-floor lounge,

where 53 children sat on their padded laps and sang their personal rendition of "All I want for Christmas is...."



School's Christmas Program

On December 13th the (mainly younger) students, displaying unbounded energy and enthusiasm, staged a series of Christmas presentations, with Krystle Timsak as emcee. Once again

the Parish Hall was packed with those who wanted to kick off Christmas with a rollicky, frolicky good time. The program included finger plays, a celebration of Christmas's world-wide appeal,

wishes for an "adopted cousin" in San Salvador, *The Twelve Days of Christmas*—kids' style, a play in which a band of apprentice angels earn their wings somewhat inadvertently, and a beauti-



A polaroid camera was used to give every kid proof that he had recited his or her list to the highest authority, in case a

mix-up occurred with the gifts. And thanks to Hotel owners Bill and Eula Thomas (who were buffeted in a crude

Caribbean port by a storm and did not arrive in time), every supplicant left the Great Padded Seat with a prize.



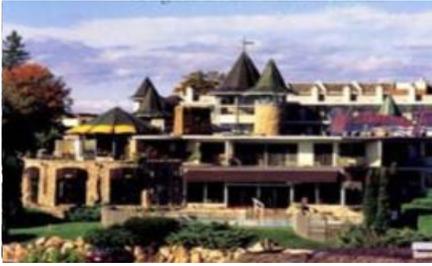
ful closing solo by Danielle Cary.

After the final song the audience was surprised by the arrival of, as one cluster of kids proclaimed, "our Island Santa," along with his wife—two ho-

hoing red-costumed roly-poly figures brandishing large sacks of candy which they passed out as they strolled down the aisle. Those who had missed them the previous weekend at the Emerald

Isle Hotel, or were there but had thought of more items for their lists, were invited to sit on the Padded Lap and unburden themselves to a caring and considerate mythological figure.

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On This Date

Ten Years Ago An article about the value of an education from the Beaver Island School mentioned that we had been first in the state in 1986, and had consistently made the top twenty school districts. In 1995 no one dropped out, and all of the 9th-graders from four years before went on to graduate. In a state-wide test, 25 Beaver Island students performed at a post-graduation level. In the MEAP test our 5th-graders all reached the very highest plateau in science, and all the students who took the test reached the top or next-to-top level in math.

Charlevoix voters approved a proposal to redesign Bridge Park, requiring a \$3,500,000 bond. The work was to include a new ferry dock and terminal building—thanks in part to then-Commissioner Rich Gillespie.

The burgeoning PABI Community House project discussed borrowing money from the Charlevoix State Bank, and was told that a precondition would be to demonstrate strong community-wide support by obtaining pledges of labor and money of at least \$10,000/year for the next three years. PABI accepted the challenge and launched a drive through the Chamber of Commerce and its manager, Pam O'Brien. Hope was expressed to have a new building up and open by the 100th anniversary of the Docksider Market.

An ad appeared offering satellite TV on Beaver Island.

A suggestion was made to trap

those who leave unauthorized trash at the Transfer Station by installing a video surveillance system.

The St. James Supervisor was dispatched to Lansing to sign papers to "close the deal" on the Gull Harbor acquisition.

Bob Graves requested a jointtownship meeting to discuss the idea of a co-generational power plant to burn scrap wood and sawdust.

Patrick McGinnity was awarded an ROTC scholarship for four years to study Computer Science Management, and a separate scholarship from his chosen university, NMU. Two other students also won awards: Angela Thundercloud was runner-up in a national essay contest, and Erin McDonough advanced to the second round in a Leadership Competition.

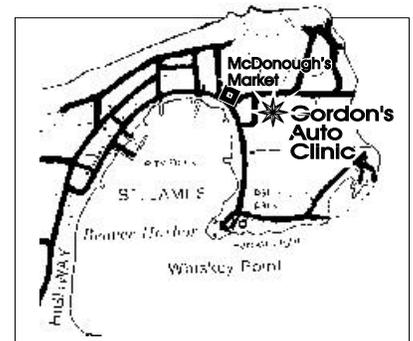
Passings noted included Verlin Brewer, Rick Bucholtz's step-father, who had a home at Gull Harbor. Births included Cindy's daughter Brighid.

Twenty Years Ago The Winter Games were set for the harbor on January 26th, weather permitting. Planned events included skating, skiing, snowmobiling, snowshoe softball, tug-of-war, snowshoe races, and a snow-sculpture contest. The Civic Association asked to borrow any extra snowshoes for the event.

Funds were being collected by the Civic for the 'Memorial to the Dead at Sea.' The estimated cost was \$1,800. It distributed a survey to Island busi-

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nesses, and from the response concluded that the business community hoped it would continue and expand its programs. Its direction would be to induce writers and editors to create magazine articles about Beaver Island rather than pay for ads. It planned to set up a Tourist Information booth in town.

Peaine Township voted to hire an attorney to bring suit against the Charlevoix Equalization Department (and hence the State Tax Commission.)

A delegation to Lansing met with State Senator Mitch Irwin and the Assistant Director of the DNR, but no progress on getting a replacement for Bill Wagner was made.

The Island dentist's assistant, Dr. Bruce Stewart, published an open letter saying how much he was enjoying coming here and meeting Island patients—but unfortunately he was going to open his own practice in Boyne City and would no longer serve us.

St. James Township decided to work on improving the North Shore Campground and the Bud McDonough Memorial Ballpark, and to hire a summer employee to enact various plans.

The Fire Department was authorized to buy a new ice auger (and hoped its Auxiliary could raise the \$400.)

The Medical Center report stated that "we are fortunate to have this facility. In comparison with other communities our size, the treatment and high standard of care is well above average." In the previous year Dr. Siudara

saw 1,766 patients (roughly 80% of today's visits.) The dentists (Drs. Porter and Stewart) saw 936 patients. Carol Skinner and Sheri Timsak resigned and were replaced by Jan Capman and Marilyn Damstra. The Auxiliary was thanked for having procured an EKG machine and a new electric typewriter.

Passings noted included Helen (McDonough) Lachance, born on Beaver is 1907, sister to Allie and Nona, and Katherine (McCann) Dunbar, born here in 1906.

Thirty Years Ago The *Beacon* reported that December began with 4" of snow on the ground and ended with an inch less. With the snow, rabbit hunting became a favored recreation. Preferably with a beagle—and they were learning young: Dennis Wagner's 3-month-old pup was already a veteran, and Sheldon Parker's 5-month-old was well-seasoned. Archie Minor had taken so many rabbits he was running out of people to give them to.

Barney's Lake was classified as having an excessive population of northern pike, so all size limits were removed for anyone fishing there.

Archie LaFreniere reported that on leaving his shop he heard the cries of a distressed bird and saw a sparrow stuck in the ice of his roof, with a second bird alternately landing to inspect and flying up to ponder the dilemma. Finally the free bird landed near the one frozen
Continued on page 12, see On This Date



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On This Date, continued from page 11. in, and pecked until its feet came free; then they both flew off together.

A severe storm hit the Island, with fierce winds whipping up the lake. Gillespie's work barge was pushed onto the lawn at Allens' cottage; empty gas tanks were washed off the boat dock; and the Marina's *Eager Beaver*, which had been hauled onto the beach, was turned sideways. At the south end Iron Ore Creek was damned by trees knocked down, and rerouted itself around the bridge. The spray from the lake froze on everything it splashed, producing some interesting ice formations that glistened in the sun.

Beaver Island's Arthur Gallagher, editor of the *Ann Arbor News*, was appointed to the Pulitzer jury.

Dr. Christie converted the basement of the Med Center into a Youth Center, now that the Township and the Civic moved into the Coast Guard building at Whiskey Point.

Phil Gregg took the 5th- through 8th-grade boys on a daring camp-out at the ice fishing shed on Lake Geneserath. They did some hunting, despite the rain and snow, kept the stove going, and played cards.

Rita Gillespie and Russ Green

started regular Wednesday night square dancing for the High School students.

The Boat Company bought the Erber Auto building in Charlevoix to use for parking.

Ron Wojan became president of the Civic Association, with Tim Timsak, Bea Parker, and Rich Gillespie also serving as officers.

Welke Aviation Services came into existence, leasing space at the Charlevoix Airport and offering twin-engine transportation to Beaver Island.

Jean LaFreniere was injured in Charlevoix when husband Dick parked their car on Bridge Street and left her alone for a moment just as a drunk driver, a Wallace Mitchell, caromed off a parked car, came across the center line, and hit the LaFreniere car head on.

The *Beachcomber Bar* was put up for sale.

The birth of Mike Moore was announced.

Passings noted included James Gallagher, born on the Island in 1893, Raymond Lewis, born on High Island in 1919, and Erwin Belfy Sr., who had moved to Beaver in 1908 at the age of 16, and later joined the Michigan Conservation Department, for whom he was the engineer on *Patrol #1*.

Forty Years Ago December had begun with 10" of snow, but a warm rain beat it down, and it was gone on the 11th. But snow began again on the 14th, and in all 24" fell. Rabbit hunting was excellent, with one group of nine coming in with 76 after a two-day hunt. Milt Bennett's beagles were being worked hard, and Archie LaFreniere was trying to organize a coyote hunt. Don Cole and Perry Gatliff perforated the ice at Lake Geneserath in their search for bluegills.

A section of the harbor was prepared for skating.

The school kids started building a 13 1/2' sailboat as a class project.

The Coast Guard decided to turn off the Whiskey Point Light until the coming spring.

The Squaw Island Lighthouse tragedy of 1900 was recounted.

At the Civic Association's annual meeting, Jack Martin (the owner of the Circle M, who became president), Rogers Carlisle, L. Z. Reigle, and Lil Gregg were elected to the Board.

A. J. Roy offered to sell the miniature golf course (next to Daddy Frank's), calling it "a real money-maker."

Passings noted included Mary

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Schmidt and William Gibson, born on Beaver in 1881.

Fifty Years Ago The very first issue of the *Beaver Beacon* came out in January of 1955, after the Civic Association approved the draft Art Johnston had been commissioned to prepare by Jewell Gillespie the previous November. The logo was a quick drawing showing a lighthouse emitting beams in which *The Beaver Beacon* was written.

The first *Beacon* gave particular thanks to Dr. Eugene Bales of Indianapolis, who had suggested a monthly newsletter at least a year before and then donated half the cost of the equipment needed to make it possible: a reconditioned ditto machine, and reams of typing paper.

The first news story carried in the first *Beacon* was about a group of businessmen who were determined to acquire a new mail-boat: Henry Allen, Lloyd McDonough, Dr. Harry Vail, Karl Erber, and Ted Hine. These men formed a new company, capitalized at \$100,000. Plans for an all-steel boat were being finished, and would be sent to the Coast Guard for approval. The boat was estimated to cost about \$72,000, to be built by the Christie Co. in Sturgeon Bay. It was hoped that the

360-horse Cat or a 355-horse Buda would propel the boat across the lake in under three hours.

The *Beacon* announced that the Island's first partridge season was quite a success, with 49 hunters taking 122 birds. But the duck kill was down, and rabbits were also scarce. About 132 deer hunters were in the woods, though, and took 29 deer.

The Civic said that its Commerce Committee was planning to install new signs identifying interesting and historical sites.

Archie LaFreniere mentioned that some of the outer islands were being considered as possible experimental wildlife locations by the Conservation Department.

During the 11-month life of the Med Center (to January, 1955), eight maternity cases had been cared for (Dr. Vail had cared for 20 cases in his two years on Beaver.) Of the 36 X-rays taken, 8 potential fractures turned out negative. "Innumerable laceration cases" were also treated, and the school children were given their shots.

The Med Center was completely paid for, as a \$2,000 loan (from Erwin Belfy) needed to complete it was paid off, thanks to a fund-raiser at the Sham-

rock on December 22nd. New work was planned that would require another \$330, so additional benefits were being organized.

Because the *North Shore* ran aground 1,000' north of Whiskey Point (at Gull Harbor) the previous fall (prematurely ending the shipping season), the Civic was petitioning the Coast Guard to install a "safety device signal capable of aiding ships" arriving during heavy fog.

Russell Hoffman took an option on the old Mormon Print Shop, intending to restore it.

Passings noted included John Maloney, a former Island schoolteacher who had been living in Chicago, and James McCann, who had owned the Beachcomber at the time of his heart attack and was found lying on the floor by Karl Kuebler. McCann had been our Conservation Officer for eight years.

The first *Beacon* closed with a plea to join the Civic, its parent organization, which had been founded in 1953. That first year almost all businessmen had joined, but there was a fall-off in '54. It was hoped that offering the *Beacon* as part of the reward for joining would increase membership, which could be had for as little as \$2/year.

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Congratulations

Captain Matthew Fogg and Wendy Anne Harwood were married on Beaver Island on Saturday, November 27th 2004 at the St. James Episcopal Church. Proud parents are Jon and Sally Fogg of Beaver Island and Don and Sylvia Harwood of New Jersey. Congratulations to a wonderful couple!

The Military

Captain Joseph T. Morgan, son of Gary and Tina, recently was honored by the United States Air Force as the Company Grade Analyst of the year for 2004. His citation explained that as a Senior Mobility Analyst stationed in Qatar, he was responsible for six major analytical efforts significantly impacting air mobility operations worldwide. He quantified air component effectiveness in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom; his landmark mission assessment was lauded by the Chief of Staff and the Secretary of the Air Force, and quoted in Congressional testimony.

Karaoke at Talent Show

Once again Mike (the Gambler) and Sharon Hurkmans will lend their considerable talent and equipment to helping Sheri Timsak with the Talent Show (on March 25th at the Parish Hall.) Contact Sheri to sign up: 448-2510.

The Hurkmans also invite singers and musicians alike who will be participating in the Talent Show to use their Karaoke machine; just call them (448-2886) to set up a time to start practicing.

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Breaking Ice for the Last Fuel Run

As the Island continues to grow and life here becomes more comfortable, aspects of the infrastructure have to be adjusted—such as the provisioning with gas and fuel oil. Each winter more people spend more time in larger homes here, and the task of making sure they all stay warm becomes more complicated. There was a time when the fuel barges could make their last run in early November, but this year a mid-December run made everyone realize that our provider has to take his life in his hands to keep us supplied.

But that trip was not the last for Bud Martin—he still didn't have enough to get us through. So a few days before Christmas Skip Duhamel took his steel-clad out through the just-formed thin ice to pull out a last net on the west side of High, and then made several slices through the lake's frozen crust before tying up at the GTTB's dock. But the temperature dropped to single digits while Buddy was on his run, and the ice reformed. So on Christmas Eve James Kenwabikise took out the *Ruby Ann*, a tug he had bought in northern Wisconsin five years ago, and began to plough up the crust an hour before Buddy was due. Many Islanders pulled over to the edge of the road to watch his exuberant demonstration of power and skill, wanting to make sure Buddy made it home safely before tucking themselves into their own warm homes, ready for the predicted fierceness of the coming winter.



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New Fire Hall

Day by day the homes in Peaine Township are becoming safer as the new East Side Fire Hall takes shape. Having the right equipment and a talented, well-organized crew has allowed it to move steadily forward, despite weather that was

wet and nippy, with temps falling to near zero. It's turning out level, straight, and plumb. With its boiler and in-slab hot-water heat, it's quickly becoming a state-of-the-art building, and will be a great home for the Island's new fire truck.



Winter Wine Tasting Wonderful!

by Lisa Gillespie

Roads were slick and icy, but that didn't deter the festive folks from coming out to Deerwood for PABI's first annual Wine Tasting Event. Pram Arharya, proprietor of Esperance in Charlevoix, donated his wines, time, and expertise to inform and entertain

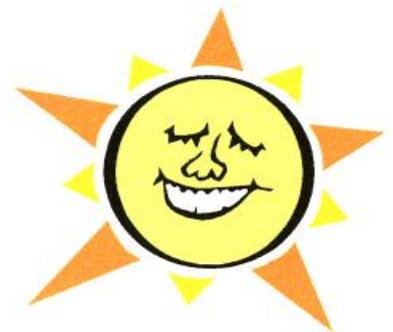
the crowd of 65 revelers. PABI board members supplied an array of appetizers and desserts that was equal to the excellent wine. Great appreciation goes to Sally and Jon Fogg, and to Sue Welke, Skip McDonough, Michelle LaFreniere, and Joan LaFreniere for all their help!



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The Cisco as Ghost Ship

Year after year the unofficial Christmas decorating contest reaches new heights, with multi-colored yard displays springing up all over town—and in the country. Despite all the high-tech displays, this year's top prize has to go to the *Cisco* sitting on the Welter dock while being made ready for a relaunch in the spring. And during the day, her lines combining brute power with subtle grace make everyone glad she's been saved and skillfully refinished and refitted, even if she replaces the noble and elegant *American Girl*.

Home on the Island

After much negotiation, the Moondance Production film (on the Irish travails that led to so many sons and daughters from its western shores, particularly Arran Mor, coming to America, Canada, and Beaver Island) was shown on TG4 on December 28th after over a year in the making.



Cookie Carnival

The word has spread that Beaver Island's cookie cooks are particularly talented. At 1:00 p.m. on the day of the Cookie Carnival at the Christian Church, a crowd was lined up outside when the doors opened. It swooped in, gathered containers, and began scooping up the most prized offerings. Those who arrived as early as 1:10 were told, "oh, you should have seen so-and-so's such-and-such—they were fantastic!" Nothing was left at the end of the day, so this annual event, in at least its thirtieth year, achieved its goal.

Drive-by Deer Count

A driving survey was conducted for six weeks between July and October of 2004. The results can be summarized as follows: total bucks: 116; total does: 472; total fawns: 178; total unknown: 131. The results were sent to Brian Mastenbrook, the DNR biologist who has visited often.



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Where Are You Christmas?

a Review by Heidi Conner

The Emerald Isle Repertory Theatre presented their fresh new show, *Where are you, Christmas?*, on December 18th and 19th. The weather outside was frightful, and yet the hardy souls of Beaver Island turned up *en masse* for each show. They were greeted by a professional crew in the warmly

decorated Holy Cross Parish Hall. Brian Porter and Kyle Barnett reached out to Beaver Island, collecting a large group of tremendously talented performers. Together they crafted a play of real holiday spirit, accompanied on seventeen numbers by five excellent Island musicians.

The play opened with a radio announcement of, ironically, an awful

winter storm. Suddenly a bustling crowd pushed its way onto the stage: a group of travelers has found itself stranded on Christmas Eve in a nearly-abandoned hotel. They wearily accept that they must ride out the storm together, telling their stories as they each take a turn in the spotlight. Bill Detwiler's rendition of *Merry Christmas, Darling* was poignant and richly





sung; Sheri Timsak impressed everyone with her version of *Where are you, Christmas?*; and Jayne Bailey brought an uplifting sweetness that was as irresistible as her marshmallow world. Every piece was special. The songs were matched beautifully with the performers, whose confidence was reflected throughout the entire group as the travelers realized they must work

with what they have to make their Christmas bright. By reaching out to one another the world becomes a more forgiving, hopeful place.

In the Beaver Island style, familiar groups were everywhere in the production: husbands and wives, sisters and brothers, parents and children, and new friends and old; all worked together. A real feeling of community and belong-

ing was projected for all to share. If the true spirit of Christmas is about reaching out to one another, as He has done for us, it was amply evident here. The EIR and Beaver Island have reflected His glory with their beautiful words and voices. We have been shown the very best, and we are justifiably proud. So a Beaver Island blessing to all, and to all a good night.





Thomas Family travels from Coast to Coast

Last August, upon arrival at their Florida home after an intense Tap Dance Show in New York City, Bill's extensive search for the trawler of his dreams came to an end. Before their car was unloaded he found an ad for a boat in Seattle that met his specifications. The following morning at 5:30 a.m. Bill, Eula, and Signe' were flying to Seattle, and the boat turned out to be just what the family wanted, a 48' Krogen North Sea, with a John Deere diesel, bow and stern thrusters, and double electronics.

Arrangements were quickly made to begin bringing the boat to the east coast and eventually to Beaver Island. This

meant motoring the boat from Washington to Ensenada, Mexico themselves; then it would be loaded on a freighter to come through the Panama Canal; the Thomases were to pick her up in Florida.

After researching and selecting Calvert School, an accredited home-study school for Signe's 8th grade, they took possession of the boat and headed north to Canada, zig-zagging through Puget Sound's thousand islands. Quick visits were made to Victoria, Vancouver, Gan- ges, and Fulford.

By late September the Thomases headed south down the western seaboard, hoping to beat winter. When they got as

far as the San Juan Islands, the coastal beauty was so overwhelming an entire week was spent in Friday Harbor.

The Oregon coast was beautiful but treacherous, with coastal bars being extremely dangerous to cross at times. But after being at sea for 2 or 3 days, sometimes it was necessary to choose a port and go for it. One of their more memorable 'scarey times' was in Newport, Oregon. They crossed over a particularly rough bar, getting into port safely. That night an 84' fishing vessel tried to come across the same bar, and went down, penning the Thomases in Newport for another 5 days before the Coast Guard declared





photographs by Signe' and Eula Thomas

the barsafe.

The intrepid family continued down coastal California, stopping in many ports, from quaint to mega (Marina del Rey had 5,000 boats) for varying periods of time, always carefully watching the weather and listening to the coastal reports. Sometimes when they were chugging up the face of a giant 30' swell, which could take 20 minutes, or coasting down the other side (5 minutes), they thought of safe confinements with more than just nostalgia.

Along the way they had several adventures, such as being accompanied by whales, schools of dolphins, sea lions, peli-

cans, and other fish and birds. Signe' says her favorite part of the trip so far was Los Angeles, where she auditioned for a photo shoot and was selected for a beach scene that was to be shot the first of November. She quickly had photos taken for her first portfolio, but the freighter company called the following day to say the date they would leave Ensenada had been moved ahead. The photo shoot had to be canceled, and they set out that evening in marginal weather, arriving in Ensenada in time to load their boat.

Fourteen days later they picked her up in Port Everglades and headed to the Bahamas, visiting Bimini, Chubb Cay,

and Nassau. They came through Marathon Key and docked at their Florida home in Cape Coral just before Christmas so they could visit their family and friends for the holidays before heading north in the spring.

Bill has navigated 2500 miles thus far, and has 3500 to go, planning to come up the eastern seaboard in April, around Prince Edward Island, down the St Lawrence to Montreal, then into the Great Lakes, hopefully hitting Beaver the first week in June. With Signe' and Eula as his crew, no doubt they will come cruising into St. James Harbor the first week in June, happy to be home.





Historical Society Progresses

The Historical Society has begun to make progress on some of its projects, now that its long-awaited permits are in hand. The Marine Museum has been protected against an onslaught of tide through the creation of a revetment along 70' of its shore. This long-planned revetment began as a contoured application of 45 yards of sand fill, which was covered by landscape cloth and then, thanks to the generosity of Mike and Sharon Hurkmans, 15 tons of fieldstone. The barricade has a 3:1 slope towards the water from the middle row of posts supporting the Museum's back deck. At present there is an untouched flat beach, 10' wide, between the first rock and the water's edge.

The second project at the Marine Museum, the roof over the two old fishing boats, is underway, but in all likelihood



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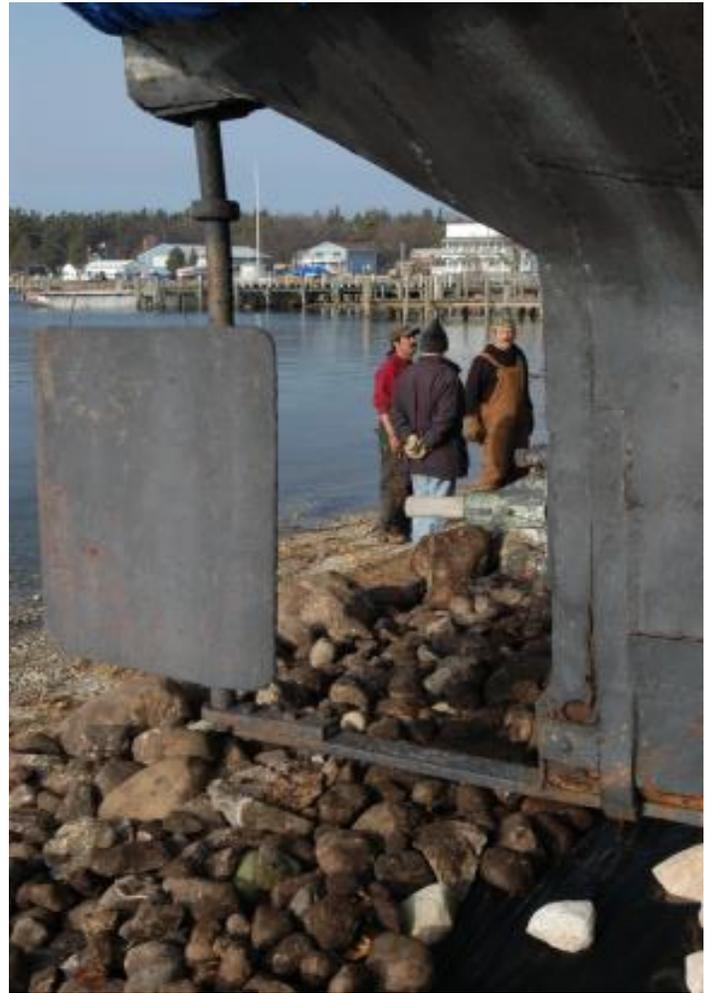
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will proceed slowly until spring. Holes have been dug for the 14 cedar posts the roof requires, some of them 20' long. Rod Nackerman allowed the BIHS to cut these on his property, and it hired James Kenwabikise, Skip Duhamel, and Larry Robinson. Cutting these big trees was done in a way to minimize disruption. The real difficulty was getting them out of the woods. Luckily James Ken had a technique down pat: he brought a ladder, and would climb a tree about 50' beyond the downed log, chain a pulley 10' up, and thread through it a long thick (1½") rope between the log and his truck 200' away in the field. Driving the truck forward would first pick up the head of the log and then swing and lunge it forward to near the pulley. Then James would attach the pulley to another tree and repeat the process. *Continued on page 24.*



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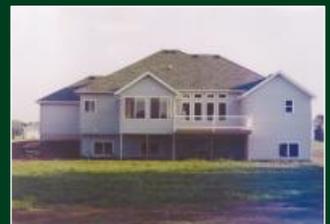
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BIHS Progresses, cont. from page 23.

Once the logs were in the field, Skip used the chain life on his flatbed net truck to load them onto a trailer borrowed from Mike Collins. The chain lift has an elevated, geared-down pulley that requires three hundred long tugs to lift a log four feet—so it could be driven over the trailer and lowered. The logs were driven to the Kenwabikise land, where they were peeled with drawknives. The next step will be to tar their ends, set them in their holes, and concrete them in place, attached to the footings with steel ties—once work resumes

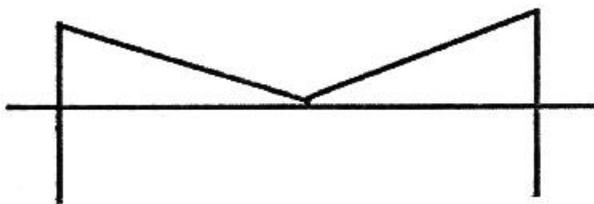
when better weather arrives.

A third project is also underway: the roof for the Island's first road grader, donated by Jim Wojan. The kids at the Lighthouse School have offered to build the roof this spring, under Dan Burton's supervision—and to contribute design ideas for the continuation of Heritage Park's development: where will the paths be placed; what kind of signs should be put up; will lighting be required? The BIHS installed six treated 6 x 6s and a triple-board beam box on their tops, and has purchased the other materials, stacked them on site, and

tarped them to be ready for any break in the weather. The slab won't be poured until the roof is done.

Thanks to the extreme effort of James White and Larry Robinson, and the talent of Brian Cushman, who worked in the rain, the Print Shop Museum is now connected to the public sewer. This required digging six feet down to locate the spur coming under the sidewalk from the main line (which had been marked with a post) and then replacing the original line running from the back of the Print Shop to the mini-field under the Museum's porch.

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GLE Explains Outage

When people on Beaver expressed their concern about the power outage of December 12th, GLE's VP of Operations and Engineering, Dan Nelson, offered to explain the purpose of the BI generation, the overall status of the system, and the cause of the power outage:

“The BI standby generation was installed to backup a catastrophic cable failure,” he said. “Depending when and where the cable fails, repairs or replacement could take an extended period of time. The generation system would be used to provide power to the Island until repairs to the cable are made. The generation plant was not installed to eliminate all power outages on Beaver Island. The generation may not be available for routine power interruptions.

“Great Lakes Energy is in the process of upgrading the circuit breakers system at the BI plant to improve the overall operation of the power sources for BI. The generation plant has been put in manual operation until this project is complete. Should a major catastrophic cable failure occur, the generations would be started manually and provide backup power to Beaver Island. We hope to have these upgrades completed by summer 2005.

“The cause of the power outage affecting Beaver Island was due to a tree going through the power line feeding the BI cable. On December 4, 2004, GLE was experiencing a significant number of power outages due to the wet, heavy snow in the northern regions of our system. The duration of the power outage was no different than customers experienced on the mainland.”

Barking Squirrels, Blind Mice, and other Hunting Tails

by Lois Williams

The 2004 whitetail hunting season is over now. The heavy coat, sub-zero boots, waterproof pants, and wooly socks are stored until next year. I gave it my all—as is always the case when it comes to sitting in a blind waiting for the “big buck” to appear. Deer hunting is an obsession with me. I can sit for hours and hours looking and listening. I'm not sure it's the hunting part that I'm obsessed with, however, but the experience of observing nature from a hidden, quiet place.

For the uninformed, a blind is exactly what it implies. It can be a pile of sticks and forest debris sufficient to hide you, or it can be a more elaborate structure. My blind is a little cedar shack with a roof overhead and four-inch-wide slots on three sides. It has been in place for several years now and the wildlife in the area is used to seeing it. It even has a name: the Martini Bar. Day after day I sit from darkness to daylight, take a break for lunch, and sit until dark. What compels a person to do this day in and day out without becoming bored and tired of it? My only explanation is anticipation. As opening day approaches I can hardly wait to get to the Martini Bar. My dreams are always that I will see a trophy buck, that once-in-a-lifetime buck, and harvest him. I've taken deer in the past with as many points as eight, but I'm talking about a trophy here. One with at least eight points with big thick pedicles, long brow tines, and a wide spread between his antlers. I am ever the optimist but pragmatically I will take a buck with three points on a side. This year the bucks I saw and were able to shoot were spikes and three points.

When you sit in blind for hours you develop a way to stay awake and alert. I slowly scan the area in my sight, over and over. The forest is vertical so any linear movement can be picked up immediately. The flicks of a tail, the motion of a squirrel, flight of a bird, are all recorded in your brain as a potential deer. There are days when deer activity is heavy and you might see a dozen, but there are more days when you only see one or two and maybe none. On these days you resort to mind games to stay alert. I write stories, sing songs to myself, ponder about the future, plan next year's garden, and think about ways of improving my shooting lanes. On days like this you tune into the surroundings and that's when you hear and see things you never noticed before.

It was so mild this year that I sat without gloves on for several days. Proofs of the high temperature were mosquitoes, a beetle, and spiders in the blind. The ravens were in good voice this year. One called for five minutes in a treetop next to my blind one morning. His calls were in sequence of twos, threes, twos, and threes, over and over again. When no one answered his call I heard him fly away, making the sound that only ravens make, kind of a cross between a honk and a horn.

Did you know that squirrels barked? They do, and they seem to communicate with other squirrels that bark back at them. Sometimes they are so loud they will startle a deer that might be browsing nearby. They also make a mewling sound almost like a cat. What color eyes do squirrels have? A big gray climbed the tree next to my blind star-

ting me and then jumped on the roof. I butted the ceiling with my rifle and scared him. He ran across the roof, landed back on the tree, scooted around it, and looked at me. In a flash he was gone. I swear his eyes were blue.

One day I discovered a mouse had chewed my ballpoint plastic pen during the night. The next day I saved some crusts from my peanut butter toast snack for him. He entertained me for several days. I would toss a tidbit on the ground and he would appear on cue. Sometimes he would nibble on it there but often would dash away with it and put it in storage no doubt. He would crawl over my boots and go in and out of my back pack. If you remained motionless he never knew you were there. He was a soft brown with reddish highlights. I named him Lucky.

It's a good thing he was Lucky because I wasn't. I logged in more hours than I'm going to fess up to and did not get a buck. I had a chance though and that's the rest of this tail. On opening day I left the blind to meet my husband, Joe, at our designated lunch spot. I was planning on spending the entire day in the Martini Bar but I was curious to see if Joe had scored. I quietly picked my way to meet him. I could hear him approaching on the ORV. Suddenly I saw movement and a deer came over the hill towards me. I ducked behind a tree and peaked out. He was curious too, and that's when I discovered he was a beautiful eight-point buck. He stood broadside to me for several seconds; it would have been a clean shot—but I DIDN'T HAVE MY RIFLE WITH ME. That's my tale and I'm sticking to it.

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Thirty-two Miles of Water



On December 17th Beaver Island was treated to two free showings of Phillip (Mike) Moore's half-hour film, an homage to the sacrifice, professionalism, and success of the EMS. Shot in color last winter, the opening depicts an Island locked in the throes of winter: ice cakes float by a sleepy downtown shrouded in the aftermath of a blizzard. Once the ambiance is established, the film switches between interviews with four patients whose lives have been saved by the prompt and efficient

response of the EMS—and depictions of the men and women whose dedication has made such a difference.

As one might expect with Mike Moore, the music, his own creation, was haunting and appropriate—so much so that the sound track alone could become a best-seller. The voice-over was supplied by another in tones that were both warm and objective.



The film began as a Master's Thesis, earning Mike a 4.0 and an advanced degree, but has been honed since then to increase its audience's awareness of a problem threatening Beaver Island:



the combination of FAA restrictions and the high cost of liability insurance. The film included interviews in which the necessity of obtaining help in the "golden hour," the first sixty minutes after a medical incident, is stressed.

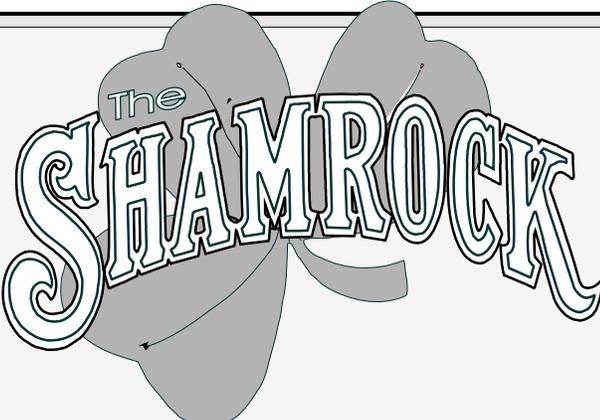
One member of the audience said he had spoken with a hundred people who had each pledged five hundred dollars



towards overcoming the restrictions limiting an Island-based emergency evacuation system, but the problem seemed larger than that amount could solve. Nevertheless this film, which Mike donated to the EMS, seemed to crystallize a long-building sentiment that if the community pulls together, it has a good chance of solving this and any other problem.

For those who missed it, copies on VHS or DVD are available online at www.phillipmooremedia.com.





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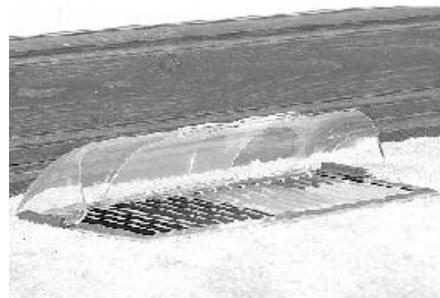
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Christmas Cantata

At the beginning of December a much-awaited event was staged at the Beaver Island Christian Church: two performances of the Fourth Annual Christmas Cantata, by the Beaver Island Community Choir. These thirty

singers, two narrators, and thirteen musicians practiced for months, and it showed as they twice came perfectly together for stunningly uplifting renditions of Stan Pethel's *A Perfect Christmas* (an expanded reprising of one of

the Choir's first performances.) The group is well-named, because pulling off such a complex and taxing event required support from the entire community, which joined together afterwards to thank the cast and confirm that

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all the work had been worth it.

This event introduced a new element to the public: chimes! The Choir still needs additional chimers—anyone interested is encouraged to contact Kathy Speck. Thanks went out to so

many, from the support staff to those who created the programs or assisted with the many practices, and the musicians who put in countless hours tweaking and practicing. The performance was dedicated to the memory of Denny

Fisher, who had been such a strong supporter of the Choir.

Knowing how dedicated this group is, one would not be surprised to learn they are already beginning the preliminary preparations for next year.

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Local Artist on Tour

Our Cindy Ricksgers recently had one of her collagraphs accepted in the 24th annual Alma College Print Show. This competition, open to Michigan artists working in traditional print media, has gained much respect for the quality of work exhibited.

This year the juror was Hugh Merrill, an internationally known artist with works in the permanent collections of the Museum of Modern Art, New York, the Harvard Art Museums, the Cranbrook Museums, and others. His articles on the redefinition of art, printmaking and education have been widely distributed.

Just over thirty pieces were chosen for inclusion in the Alma Print Show. The grand opening was held at the Flora Kirsh Beck Gallery in Alma on November 15th, with an awards ceremony on November 20th. The works will travel for a year to several other galleries in Michigan.

The schedule:

Stunbitz Gallery, Adrian College, Adrian, January 10-29

Jordan River Arts Council, East Jordan, April 10-May 6

William Bonifas Art Center, Escanaba, June 16- July 21

Birmingham Bloomfield Art Association, Birmingham, August 5-27

John Zanella 1943 – 2004

John Anthony Zanella passed away unexpectedly on December 12, 2004. One of the funniest Islanders in some time, Johnny could always be counted on to present an unusual view of the world. He was equally well known for pitching in to help his friends. In recent years he provided taxi service on Beaver, prompting many of his customers to have him pick them up whenever they returned, just to refresh themselves with his unique vision.

Johnny was born August 22, 1943 in Grand Rapids, the son of John Anthony Zanella, Sr. and Virginia T. Young, both deceased. Johnny fell in love with Beaver Island (he remembered Nomad) as a child, and bought his first piece of property along King's Highway as a young man of seventeen.

He studied psychology at Ferris State University for three years, but left to serve in the Viet Nam War. He was in for three years, earning the rank of SPC-5 and the job title of Mess Sergeant. After his military service, Johnny went to work with his father in the family flooring business in Grand Rapids. He eventually took over the business and ran it for over a decade. Loving Beaver Island, he maintained a store for awhile in the old store where the Hardware is currently located.

After divorcing his first wife he married Ann Margaret Bomers on August 22, 1997. They were joined together on top of the Beaver Head Light by his longtime family friend Rev. 'Slim' Bailey, and have lived happily together on the Island ever since.

Along with his wife Ann, Johnny is survived by his four children, John Carl Zanella, Molliejo Virginia Zanella, Patrick Lee Zanella, and Rosemary Wittemore, and his sister Maryann Zanella of Clarksville, MI. He was expecting his first grandson, appropriately named John Anthony Zanella, in April 2005.

A longtime member of AMVETS Post 46, Johnny was laid to rest at Holy Cross Cemetery December 16, 2004, with AMVETS Post 46 members officiating with military rites, including prayers, Taps, and a presentation of the American flag to Johnny's wife Ann.

"He was a loving father, doting husband, patriotic soldier, and loyal friend. He valued truth, honesty, dignity, and respect," Phyllis Moore stated. "He strove to live by these principles, providing an example for his children to be proud of. He was a solid member of the Beaver Island community and will be greatly missed by all those who knew him."



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Maylone Enterprises Proposed Broadband Link to Include Beaver Island

At the December 22nd Charlevoix County meeting an interesting proposal was made by Maylone Enterprises of Elk Rapids, a proposal that could very well become a major stepping stone to Beaver Island's broadband future.

Earlier in the fall, Tim Maylone, president of Maylone Enterprises, was asked by the Charlevoix County Sheriff if there were a way to improve its communications between the Sheriff's office, a Boyne City location, and the Beaver Island substation. There was one small problem—there were no additional funds to spend for this in the current budget. Spending time at the County Building, Maylone noted that currently each desk in the County Building has its own phone line, while only a few of the 88 separate lines were actually in use at any given time. In addition, long distance charges to locations such as Beaver Island do add up. When Maylone asserted that a more flexible network could accomplish the goals at hand, and pay for itself and then some, he was asked to analyze the situation and make a proposal.

Maylone Enterprises currently provides 32 Internet hotspots, including networks in and around East Jordan and between Mackinaw City and Mackinac Island. Maylone says he is especially

interested in providing broadband and wireless service in Charlevoix County as it would fill the gap in his current coverage between Elk Rapids and Mackinaw.

Having gained the County's public safety committee's support to go ahead on December 7th, at the December 22nd County meeting Maylone proposed a strategy combining conventional T1 lines with high-capacity wireless, including wireless broadband links to the Boyne and Beaver Island locations. In addition to providing the desired broadband data connections between the Charlevoix County building, Charlevoix Sheriff's Office, Boyne, and Beaver Island substations, a control box would be placed at each location allowing users the option of automatically making Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) connections to greatly reduce long distance costs. When not possible, it would automatically fall back to the traditional POTS line at each location. Maylone secured private investment to fund all equipment and installation costs so the County would not have to pay any up-front costs, and estimates that "after factoring in the early termination penalties for higher-priced current telcom contracts (which would be made unnecessary by the new infrastructure), even in a worst case scenario the County would

begin saving \$1,300 per month, the very first month, by utilizing the new system." And "in a best case scenario, as the transition progressed, the savings could grow closer to \$2,000 per month" while providing enhanced linkages between the four locations.

At this point the issue was sent to committee to put together a new RFP, so it is somewhat unclear what the next month will bring or what the rollout schedule may be.

If the County does ultimately decide to go ahead with the proposal from Maylone Enterprises, it could be exciting news for the Island as Maylone has expressed a strong interest in moving forward to provide much more for the Island's community in general.

As Maylone works on securing tower space on the mainland for an Island connection, he says, in the future he would like to provide not only fast broadband access to more people than can currently see the school's roof, but more, states that this could be "the cornerstone for also providing better telecommunications for medical applications, Internet2 access for the Island schools, public safety, alternative phone services, and alternative commodities broadband Internet access on Beaver Island."



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Little Traverse Conservancy Receives 4-Star Rating

For the third year in a row, the Little Traverse Conservancy has been awarded the highest possible rating from Charity Navigator, an independent watchdog group that evaluates charities for their fiscal responsibility. "A four-star rating from Charity Navigator means your supporters can be assured that Little Traverse Conservancy is worthy of their trust and commitment," said Trent Stamp, executive director of Charity Navigator.

"Last year, for every membership dollar that was donated, we were able to protect \$17 in land value," said the Little Traverse Conservancy's executive director, Tom Bailey. "Not only are our members getting a good investment for their dollar, but they also have the satisfaction of knowing that they are directly contributing to the protection of the ecological and scenic values of our region," Bailey added.

Founded in 1972 as a non-profit land conservation organization working in five counties (Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Chippewa, Emmet, and Mackinac), the Little Traverse Conservancy is the oldest regional land trust in the state. On Beaver it controls both the Little Sand Bay and the Barney's Lake preserve. Its mission is to protect the natural diversity and beauty of northern Michigan by preserving significant land and scenic areas, and fostering appreciation and understanding of the environment. With the support of more than 4,100 members, it has worked with landowners to protect more than 23,000 acres of land with nearly 70 miles of shoreline along northern Michigan's streams, rivers, and lakes. In addition, the Conservancy offers free environmental education programs.

"Land protection is a very tangible cause to support," said Bailey. "Every time you drive by one of those Conservancy nature preserve signs, you can thank the landowners and the donors who made the permanent protection of that land possible. No form of land protection is as enduring as the protection offered through a land conservancy."



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One Hundred Years Ago

by Joyce Bartels

Charlevoix Sentinel January 6, 1905 **Local News:** "The steamer *Beaver* went to the Island Tuesday, and made a landing at McCann's old dock at the point. She will make one more trip and lay up."

"Peter McCafferty and Mike Green, of this place, have taken the contract of carrying the Beaver Island Mail. They will use the tug *Maggie*, and will carry the mail as long as they can touch any spot on the Island."

"Attorney General Blair has filed in the Supreme Court an application for a writ of quo warranto for the purpose of inquiring into the right of the Booth Packing Company of Chicago to transact business in this state. Behind this application is the Wolverine Fish Company of Detroit, which claims that the Booth company is a trust within the meaning of the statute, and that it should be deprived of the right to do business in this state."

Charlevoix Sentinel January 12, 1905 **Local News:** "The steamer *Beaver* made her last trip to the Island Friday. She was unable to touch at any point on this side, and was compelled to go around to the west side, where she reached a boat landing place about midway of the Island, where the mail and two passengers—Jas. McCann and W. J. Gallagher—were left. The *Beaver* is now laid up"

Charlevoix Sentinel January 26, 1905 **Local News:** "The fishing tug *Knapp* made a trip to Beaver Island last week Wednesday, landing at the old 'point' dock and exchanging a big accumulated mail. She went over again Monday but could not get within a mile of the harbor. The mail was sent ashore, however, and a small mail taken on board—the mail having been sent by the ice route to Cross Village. This Monday trip is the latest date on record on which mail has been taken to or from Beaver Island by boat—breaking the record of 1903, in which year the mail went over January 21st. There was no special News from the Island Monday."



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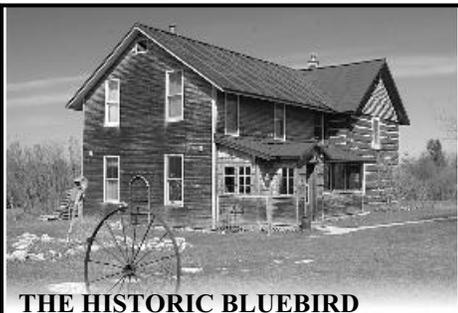
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