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# Beaver Beacon

The Island Monthly Since 1955



*some stories in this issue:*

Double Two-timers

A Christmas Tree - Portrait of a Life

The Southdown Challenger Tucks Into Sand Bay

New Medical Center nears completion; Community worries about cost to Independent Care Providers

Beaver Island News and Events, History, People, Photography, Art, and more...



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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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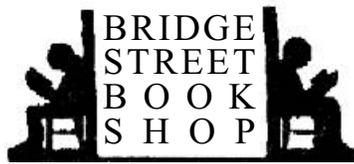
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## News From the Townships

### St. James Township Board

On January 7<sup>th</sup> the St. James Town Board held a short meeting. Supervisor Don Vyse has been working on establishing the procedure for Ordinance enforcement: first, a verbal warning, followed by a letter confirming the violation; if nothing is done, another notice will be sent, giving 30 days to correct the violation. If nothing is done, a notice of violation will be issued, which will mention the penalties. One complication: in some cases the violators may be off the Island.

Bob Hudgins has resigned as Airport Manager.

The Trail Committee, which has concentrated its access-marking activities in Peaine, contacted St. James about its interest in extending its program into the northern township.

There was talk of a joint-township committee to oversee the future use of the original Medical Center. A variety of potential tenants has appeared (primarily Charlevoix County agencies), and the committee will set rents to be sure insurance, maintenance, and utilities are covered.

A contract for hiring Gosling Czubak Engineering Sciences to prepare an Island-wide Master Plan was discussed. The fee would be \$23,010, which would be evenly split between both townships (now that Peaine has scrapped its plan to conduct the survey part on its own due to a lack of agreement on questions to be asked.) The Master Plan supports the Zoning Ordinance, and could be necessary if the

townships are sued over a matter of zoning. It should be updated every five years.

The Township agreed to join the Chamber of Commerce for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row.

Jim McDonough and Pinky Harmon were reappointed to the Board of Review (2-year terms), and Jayne Bailey was appointed to replace Mike Green. Lil Gregg, Nancy White, and Patty Cull were reappointed to the Library Board as well.

The planned yacht dock construction was in trouble on two fronts. On the first, the neighbor to the north was still trying to get greater protection for his riparian rights, asking if a law enforcement officer would be stationed on the Yacht Dock to make sure no boats tied up in his passageway – on the north end of the slips. Questions were raised about the original conveyance of land from Henry Allen. On the second, it seems that standards have shifted since the design of the improvements began. Some new rules (such as cleat spacing, lighting design, and the nature of the bathroom floor) will be easy to comply with, but others could force a redesign, which would then require reapplication for permits, a lengthy, costly process. Eight years have already been spent on the current design. Besides the time factor, the new rules might force a *reduction* of slips from 26 to 23, whereas at the onset the hope was to increase the number of slips to 34. It was hoped a variance could be obtained; since the finger piers are in a hazardous condi-

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tion, we really can't wait.

The back-up generator at the original Medical Center was discussed. This was bought for \$15,000 (each Township put in \$2,500; the Med Center put in \$2,000; and a GLE grant provided the remaining funds.) The contractor for the new facility thought it would be less expensive to buy a new generator than to move this one, and that's in the current plan. After the sewer was hit by lightning (which created a significant bill for pumping out the system until it could be fixed), the Township realized it could use a portable generator, but this one is just too large. No decision about what to do with it was reached.

#### St. James Planning Commission

On January 8<sup>th</sup> the PC met to consider three interesting cases. The first concerned a request for a non-specific, preemptive approval for building on a particular lot in the sand dunes area. While this has been done in Peaine, there was no precedent in St. James. A potential purchaser has appeared who wants to know if he could build on this lot if he buys it, but as of yet he has no specific home plan in mind. The PC thought that it should make some kind of determination, for which there should be a fee, but stated that the purchaser would have to reapply once he'd designed his house. The problem was complicated by the topography of this lot: two retaining walls to prevent wind erosion would likely have to be built, one in front of the house and the other behind. Yet in general the erosion of

this neighborhood could be helped by conscientious placements.

The third case concerned an oversight made a few years ago in which not every aspect of a complicated building project was adequately covered. Now that an error has come to light, everyone agreed it had to be fixed through a rezoning, which would retroactively sanction what was done. The question became: who should apply for the rezoning, the PC or the property owner? Arguments were heard on each side. A vote was taken, but the Board was deadlocked (with one abstention.) This will be back on the agenda for the next meeting.

The second case was the Community House. Don Tritsch made a presentation using new drawings of the site plan, elevations, and interior. This lot may be the single most scrutinized piece of property on Beaver Island.

An off-premise water well is no longer required. A double-cased on-site deep well is now part of the plan. They'll have a sprinkler system and a back-up generator.

The Community House will now include three primary areas. An auditorium will accommodate ~150 people, either watching an event on the stage or eating a meal prepared in the kitchen, on tables and chairs kept in storage but brought out when the collapsible seating is pushed against the back wall. The entryway/lobby will contain a Welcome Center, staffed and run by the Chamber. Bathrooms and a snack area

*Continued on page 6*

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*Township News, cont. from page 5*

will also be located here. Upstairs, but not over the high-ceilinged auditorium, will be a large room for recreation, for seniors during school and for kids after school. The Youth Consortium and PABI will each have an office here – if it can obtain funding. PABI may have a half-time employee, who would arrange regular events for the Community House, among other things.

The real problem concerns parking. The current site plan has 15 10' x 20' places, which some observers feel is not nearly enough. In fact, going into the meeting this was seen as a real stumbling block in getting the PC approval needed to qualify for large grants that are in the works. To the surprise of many in the audience, PABI's leaders, who must have already been exhausted from their tremendous efforts to bring this about, pulled off a stunning coup: they have arranged to acquire an empty lot on McDonough Avenue to be used as a community parking lot. This lot might contain 53 spaces (up to 60 if the green belt is eliminated.) It will require clearing, possibly paving, and a sidewalk to link it with downtown.

The PC wanted PABI to come up with another 8 spaces, and it went farther, agreeing to pay 40% of the cost of creating a community lot (up to \$20,000), with the townships to pay part and the downtown businesses to pay part. (Coincidentally, work on the

Main Street parking lot began the same day.) Consequently the PC approved PABI's development plan.

### Peaine Township Board

On January 14<sup>th</sup> ten people braved the zero-degree weather to attend the Peaine Township Board meeting.

After the minutes and bill-payments were approved, the Board considered a contract proposal for both townships from Gosling Czubak, the firm which recently completed a Master Plan for Manistee. Doug Tilly recommended "option 2," which had also been chosen by St. James. Signing the contract would result in a bill to both townships for around \$23,000. Around, because there were unknown factors: it was thought that Peaine could still do some of the groundwork and save some part of its share of the fee, but, on the other hand, there seemed to be an implication that this price was already based on volunteers helping with the field investigation, and the contract's fine print would allow extra charges for transportation, lodging, mileage, and meals during visits.

Doug Tilly assured the Board that it, and the Planning Commission, would each be able to veto misdirection or inappropriate results, almost on a line by line basis. Judy Lanier pointed out that the proposal seemed to ignore much of the work done on the Island over the past few years. It took the BIRHC's Vision Project of five years

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ago as its starting point, for example, instead of the pool of data created more recently by a sequence of conversations with groups of summer residents. The GC project would begin with a survey, whose questions would be approved by the Board; it was hoped that all the work that went into the PC's own survey (before the PC voted not to send it out) would be considered. It could still be facilitated by the MSU Extension.

It would take between 1½ and 2 years for GC to complete this project, with partial payment due as various stages were accomplished. It would summarize existing conditions but consider demographics, trends, and projections. It would develop a land use plan that included community facilities, an environmental protection plan, and implementation procedures.

After more discussion it was decided to amend the proposal slightly by setting \$11,500 as Peaine's maximum share, by asking for more information on possible savings that would come from Peaine doing some of the mapping, by replacing the GC outline with one created by the PC, and by making sure input from the summer conversations was included.

Treasurer Tina Morgan reported on her work with delinquent personal property taxes, which she feels compelled to pursue, both as a matter of law and to justify those who pay their tax bills. She reported that \$9,592 has been col-

lected so far (and disbursed to various recipients, such as almost \$3,800 to the school), and \$11,174 was still due. The Board agreed that she should do what the law requires.

Robert Hudgins' letter of resignation as Airport Manager was read. This position requires someone with an FAA license, one held by both John Works and Don Vyse, who are acting as co-interim managers. Terry Saxton intends to apply for the position and is about to take the test for this license.

The matter of Dr. White's contract with the BIRHC received much attention. From the audience Connie Wojan reported that Don Spencer had completed a provisional draft, which would now be reviewed by both the BIRHC's and Dr. White's attorney. Because the moving-in is scheduled for early February, and the joint townships should not allow her to practice in the old building (because of state law prohibiting assisting private enterprise), time was of the essence. Paul Nelson asked Connie to do what she could to expedite this matter, and she agreed.

Jim Wojan, Don Vyse, Paul Nelson, and John Works are the committee to manage the old building's future use.

The EMS and the BIFD sent letters of support for the East Side Drive mid-Island Fire Station. The EMS agreed to pay \$4,000 a year and the Fire Department \$13,400 to pay off the loan required for the building construction.



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## Thanks, and HNY!

Happy New Year from the Beaver Island Fire Department Auxiliary!

Many thanks to those who joined us at Holy Cross Hall to ring in 2004 (notice we didn't say "Thanks to the many who joined in the fun.") Due largely to the generous contributions of individuals, and the donation of time and music from Mike and Sharon Hurkmans, we were able to raise \$210.54. Many missed the opportunity to sing and dance to the songs provided by Mike's Island DJ Service, which took requests and played everything from polka to pop, from country to rock. (They have 2800 songs in 20 different categories; the music is nonstop, and includes a light show. Plus they've added a module to handle up to three instruments, and they can accommodate three singers simultaneously on three microphones.) Thanks also to those who set up, took down, cleaned out, bartended, sold chips, and brought hors d'ouvres.

With everyone's participation we can work to make the Island a safer place to live.

## Zoning Moves Along

On January 15<sup>th</sup> a joint-Township-Planning Commission meeting was held at which the public was invited to comment about the (hopefully) final draft of the new zoning ordinance, which was available at the Library and online. Some of those who've followed the growth of zoning controls since their inception in 1974 asked several questions, but the answers received were satisfactory and no substantive changes were made. Consequently the draft will now be sent to Charlevoix Planner Larry Sullivan and the Charlevoix Commissioners. If they request additional refinements there will have to be another round of meetings, but if not, the new ordinance could be put up for approval by the Town Boards as early as this March.

Once approved, it will be printed and copies will be available from Kevin White for a slight fee – in the past fewer than ten copies have been sold per year.

## Jason Allen Protects

the shoreline: our senator from Traverse City recently introduced a bill to establish a Great Lakes Protection Fund, signed into law by the Governor.

## Double Two-time Geo-bee Winners

Once again the Island School held its geography bee, and once again Hannah Connors finished right behind the defending champion, Patrick Cull, missing a question about the Po. So, Po Hannah.

Patrick seems to know about everywhere. One of the many stories people tell about him is that he was snowmobiling behind Fox Lake when an exhausted hunter stumbled out of the brush and said, "Hey, where the heck is town?" To which he courteously replied, "Aw, that's an easy one. Ask me something *hard*."

## Parking Lot Underway

Tree-cutting and chipping for the Main Street parking lot began in early January. Although some old apple trees were in the way and had to go, a line of eight white pines was left between the lot and the beach.

## MLUI exceeds Goal

According to its website (mlui.org), the Michigan Land Use Institute raised \$50,000 more than its hoped for \$215k.

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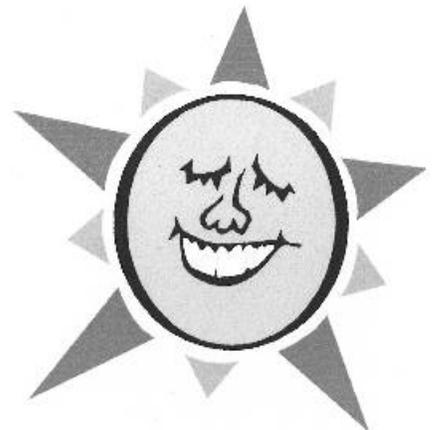
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## Strang Gang coming to Beaver Island

In the 12<sup>th</sup> issue of Bill Olson's interesting newsletter for the "Strang Writers' Group," he announced a get-together was being planned for May 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. The agenda has not been set, but it's anticipated that talks and group discussions will alternate with a tour of Mormon sites and, if the weather permits, a junket to other islands – hopefully even Gull, which was a hotbed of anti-Strang foment. All those interested in James Jesse, and particularly in the challenges and rewards of trying to write about him, should plan to attend. Further information will appear in the *Beacon* as it becomes available.

## Snowshoe Lessons

On January 19th, environmental educators Marci Birkes and Alison Adams from the Little Traverse Conservancy met with Beaver Island students in the K-6 grades to conduct hands-on, or feet-on, snowshoe instruction. They divided the kids into groups and ran four hour-long programs that also stressed woods navigation and identifying animal tracks on a cold but tolerable sunny day.



## Doll Lear

Doll Lear, a lifetime resident of Beaver Island, crossed over to the happy hunting ground Christmas morning, 2003. She was 15. Doll had been in declining health for nearly a year, yet her pure joy of living never faltered. She took her task very seriously: to keep the balance of work and play in her master's life.

Doll was the first to jump in the truck for a long day at the jobsite, and the first to remind her friends that life is more than just labor. Many Islanders can recall fun romps through the woods and long walks on the beach, with Doll leading the way. She walked in beauty, which was her most lovable trait.

She was laid to rest in a hand-crafted casket made by her lifetime master and best friend, Roger Lear. Her spirit will be greatly missed.

## Health Center Survey

Before the end of February the BIRHC Board plans to mail a brief survey to help it improve medical services on the Island. In an effort to be more responsive to the community, there'll be questions about insurance and treatment, and a place for comments. The more people who take a few minutes to fill it out and send it back, the more effective our Health Center can be!

## BIRHC Open House

The new Health Center will have an open house with cookies and beverages on February 8<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Everyone who wants to see our new facility is invited to attend.

The first patients (Doctor Phil and E.N. Lange) were admitted for a check-up on January 29<sup>th</sup>.

Next summer there will be a gala event honoring the dozens and dozens who helped make this a reality.

## Breaking a Thousand

In early January the *Beaver Beacon* passed a new milestone: over a thousand subscriptions (counting newsstand sales, we're now printing twelve hundred.) We offer our patrons our sincere thanks!

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## Health Center Meeting

On January 10<sup>th</sup> 22 people attended the Beaver Island Rural Health Center's regular meeting. Board member Angel Welke was in bed with the flu, and Transition Manager Arlene Brennan had to fly off that morning because of a family problem.

After the minutes were amended, the financial report was given. Money was tight, although the accounts receivable had been reduced over the past three months from \$42k to \$34k to \$23k, and new bills were being paid (and not criticized.) The group who had sent out 1300 letters (the "annual appeal") was thanked. Response was heartening: despite the controversy, \$22k had been received for special projects, surpassing the projection, plus another \$1.7k for an endowment fund (although responses were down from last year's 140 to 123.) Additional responses are expected.

Plans were unveiled to raffle off another, even-grander full-size truck, the purchase of which is being facilitated by Ken and Loretta Slater. Tickets

(500 in all) will become available on May 1<sup>st</sup>, with the drawing on Labor Day. Several ideas were discussed. Help is needed in strategic grant writing. Community members should be solicited to help with the Capital Campaign. Developing the BIRHC website will be put off until June. The possibility of partnering with other organizations to funnel more money here from Lansing will be explored—possibly through the Partnership Project.

Ray Cole reported on a movement that had developed to help the BIRHC keep a dentist on the Island. Several people had written checks for this, which totaled \$1,025.

Don Spencer read Arlene's report. She mentioned that the Island had run out of flu vaccine, just like everywhere else. Utilization of the Health Center was up 11% for December. Eleven past-due accounts were sent to a collection agency (totaling \$1,100.) Donna Kubic is ready to act as the interim manager. The staff continues to provide input for fine-tuning the new facility.

Don then delivered a construction report, saying the new building was 95% complete and both on time and on budget. In response to a question about the "excess \$200k," he said \$50k will pay off the operating funds loan the BIRHC took out in August; \$90k will replace the lost revenue from the State to insure the operation for next year; and \$60k will be used for this in the following year.

The negotiations with Dr. Wendy White on a contract were discussed, although she was called away for a dental emergency. It was recounted that the two attorneys consulted had said that charging her a rent or utilities amount under true or market value could jeopardize our 501(c)3 status—although what fair market value for a dental office on Beaver Island might be was anybody's guess. Time was running out: letting her stay in the old building could create a problem, but she can't move into the new facility until she has a contract. Finally it was decided that she would be offered an interim, 12-month contract (at \$50/mo for the first 6 months and \$100/mo thereafter), during which a

true analysis of actual costs can be completed and a new contract negotiated. Paul Nelson remarked that the expense and effort of moving into an undefined situation would put Dr. White into a precarious situation. Yet everyone agreed that having her practice here (at a considerable loss of potential income) was a great asset to Beaver Island.

After more than two hours had passed, it was suggested that this be declared to be the Annual Meeting (this was apparently determined in August or September, although few in the audience or on the Board seemed to realize it beforehand.) Unless the by-laws were changed, an Annual Meeting was required before the end of the month. One of the functions of the Annual Meeting is to fill the expiring terms, of which there were two: Anne Glendon's and Joe Reed's. Kirk McBride of the CCG had offered to serve on a nominating committee, but Anne had been unable to contact him. She and Joe were willing to serve again, though, so in the interest of continuity they were appointed to serve new terms.

Board President Connie Wojan reported that the CCG had submitted a new complaint about possible Open Meetings Act violations to the prosecutor, but her response, which had been expected, had not yet arrived.

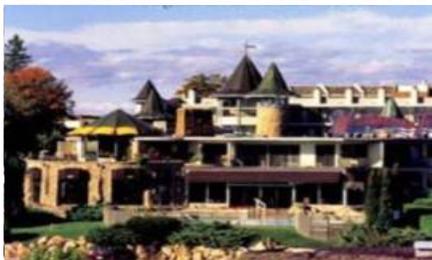
The EMS asked if it could use the BIRHC condo if it has to again bring in a paramedic to meet state requirements, and was told yes, barring scheduling conflicts.

There was hope the new Director of the CharEm Emergency Services would come to the Island soon to help work out an Island Disaster Plan.

In response to a question of why rates had jumped (a simple office visit was said to now be \$55, whereas it was \$35 recently), it was stated that the BIRHC, like all comparable facilities, charged the maximum allowed by insurance companies. Our rates used to be below the norm, but even at the increased amount they don't cover the true cost—which might be \$200 for a "simple office visit."

The next meeting was set for February 28<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 at Peaine Hall.

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## An Exchange of Letters

On January 20<sup>th</sup> a sequence of public letters began about the difficulties of reaching an agreement between the BIRHC and Dr. White for providing dental care at the new facility. The first, signed by Connie Wojan “on behalf of the BIRHC Board,” went into circulation with the title, “Letter to the Community.” It summarized 18 months of efforts by listing things that took place on 20 specific dates.

The letter also said that on January 16<sup>th</sup> Connie gathered information that six current business rentals had an average cost of \$0.80/ft<sup>2</sup>, and that the 900 ft<sup>2</sup> Dr. White would occupy would have a fair market rental value of \$720/month. It then stated that “the 501(c)3 status of the BIRHC could be jeopardized if a for-profit professional occupied space in the new building without paying market rate rent.” The new \$720/month figure generated considerable concern.

The letter’s tone implied the Board had bent over backwards while Dr. White behaved difficultly. The letter showed how frustrated the Board has become. After all, they work hard and receive no pay, and every time they think they’re done, something new turns up—new rules, new interpretations, new positions taken by legislators—and they have to dig deeper into their reserves of energy.

Dr. White felt compelled to publish her own letter to the community the following day. She challenged several claims made by the Board. She felt smeared by the BIRHC letter, and also criticized it for leaving out some of the steps that helped create the present turmoil (such as the request that she pay the \$5,000 cost for a separate electric meter after initially being told she would not be responsible for any construction costs. She also stated that the dental space is only 760 ft<sup>2</sup>, and said that, to date, after 18 months, she hasn’t received a contract proposal to sign.)

But primarily she repeated an argument which had been made by her attorney, that there were exceptions to the IRS rule that 501(c)3s can not subsidize an independent health care provider. If there weren’t, many communities all across America would probably lose their medical services. Dr. White pointed out that

she was working with the BIRHC committee at a time when she was criticized for not communicating with the Board, and that the reason she left the January 10<sup>th</sup> meeting before discussion of her situation came up (another criticism made in the “Letter to the Community”) was to treat a patient with a dental emergency.

Then a third letter appeared, from Eula Thomas, a new BIRHC Board member who is on the new committee negotiating an agreement with Dr. White and wanted to clarify a few points. She and committee member Don Spencer drafted a one-year contract calling for payments of \$50/month for the first 6 months and then \$100/month, and Connie sent it to the BIRHC attorney. She hoped that with the move date drawing so near, the process could finally be fast-tracked: the BIRHC attorney and Dr. White’s attorney could look over the draft, and needed changes could be made over the phone. The BIRHC agreed to call a special meeting to approve the agreement.

She went on to say that “if the visitors, phone calls, and e-mails I’ve received are any indication, the community is frustrated.” To mend this she urged the Board to expedite this matter. Once we have a one-year agreement, there will be more time to thoroughly investigate long-term considerations.

Many people wanted to express themselves. Some said they were disgusted that the matter had ever gotten to this point and faulted the BIRHC for not having created a good working relationship with Dr. White long before.

The invocation of “fair market value” raised some concerns. Lease rates are usually set to pay off a mortgage, making the building of rental space a good investment. Is this applicable here? Could the fair market value of the dental suite be determined without seeing what other dentists might pay? Could one be found who wouldn’t look at the meager profits a practice here produces and say “eighty cents a foot, are you kidding—you’d have to pay me”?

Some people were concerned about how the newly raised 501(c)3 concerns and higher fair-market value of the new building would affect other aspects of health care, our overseeing physician,

and other potential specialists. These concerns prompted a letter from Dr. Brad Grassmick (BIRHC Board) which indicated that Drs. Newcomb and Mann are under the non-profit umbrella: they are contractors of the Health Center for a flat fee. The BIRHC bills their services and keeps what’s collected. In addition to seeing patients here, they’re available for consultation 24/7, and they oversee our prescription writing. His comments were seconded by a letter from Arlene Brennan, who pointed out that Pine River hasn’t raised its rates for over 15 years.

Everyone wants Dr. White to continue her practice here. They trust her, and like her, and realize she’s earning perhaps a quarter of what she might elsewhere. They are thankful to have an on-Island dentist who is available when you need care: it’s reassuring, even crucial, to know that if a tooth flares up in the middle of a three-day white-out, one won’t have to cringe in pain until the weather clears. And no one wants to have to wait up to a week for a mainland dentist to visit to ease their agony.



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## On This Date

**Ten Years Ago** This *Beacon* featured a story by Phil Gregg about the Island's first Air Mail in April of 1926, when the Island had been out of touch for two months because of a broken telephone line to the mainland and shifting ice floes that prevented any ice walking. The Charlevoix Postmaster, George Weaver, contacted Senator Ferris and Representative Scott for permission to fly the mail, but did not succeed. Then the Booth Fisheries got involved, persuading Interior Secretary Herbert Hoover to authorize a flight. Ex-RAF pilot Joe Donnelan was given the assignment, and he enlisted his friend Alvin Yieder to serve as his mechanic. They had to fly a two-seated biplane from Chicago to Charlevoix to pick up the mail, a chore made very difficult by an April Fool's blizzard.

They made it across Lake Michigan in the dark, putting down in a snowfield in Lawton, where all the excited villagers turned out. But each time they tried to dig out the plane to take off again, gusts filled the channel back up with snow. Finally after three days they took off, stopping briefly at Grand Haven and then Cadillac before reaching Charlevoix.

Island resident John McCann hap-

pened to be in town and was enlisted as a guide. They took off on April 7<sup>th</sup> with 400 pounds of cargo. Islanders glued their ears to their radios to keep up with the flight, which brought the plane down on a patch of harbor ice marked with evergreens 45 minutes later. Jackie, Joe M'Fro's 22-year-old horse, was hitched to a cutter and driven out on the ice, but the abundant cheering and thunderous engine noise was more than he could take. He keeled over dead, ending one era just as another began.

Another article covered the presentation of just-retired Transfer Station manager Dennis Cieslak ("Keech") for his extensive efforts to start Beaver Island recycling.

In news from the Townships, the request for a grant for the Tennis Courts was denied; the paperwork for Gull Harbor Park was finished; the preliminary drawings for the Harbormaster's office at the Yacht Dock were critiqued; and the Peaine Township Board voted itself a 20% raise.

Passings noted included Peter Green, John Adams, Robert Burhans Sr., Bruce McCrone, and the McCann House B & B.

**Twenty Years Ago** This *Beacon* opened with a report from the School

Board, at whose meeting Joe Moore was granted permission to give the Island's first computer seminar for a \$4 tuition. Michele LaFreniere was appointed as credit-earning assistant to new Special Ed teacher Karla Karbowski; her Learning Center was being used by more than her six charges. Principal Barb Rakowski pushed for a program to teach cross-country skiing.

There was mention of a book on Beaver Island's birds, being written by CMU's Dr. Hartley.

In Township news, Al Dudzik urged the Peaine Board to appoint a Building Committee to look into the possibility of building a new Town Hall (a 30' x 50' x 10' steel pole barn was first priced out: ~\$20,000.) The Airport Committee was increased to seven members. A special meeting was called to consider purchasing 572' of Iron Ore Bay beach, surrounding the creek; the Trustees voted to proceed. St. James considered hiring Charlevoix's Townships' Attorney, but decided they did not have enough work to meet his minimum of two hours a month.

The Civic Association decided to move the February 18<sup>th</sup> Winter Games from Barney's Lake, where the ice had been poor, to the Harbor, and to cap them off with a dance at the Shamrock.

The Game Club appointed a committee to crack down on poaching. Bill Welke was thanked for using his plane to locate game and drop salt blocks.

An article by Phil Gregg talked about Todd McDonough's transfer to Central Lake High School so he could play sports, primarily football, at which he excelled. The previous summer, the Island experienced Central Lake's pre-season football camp, using the facilities at the ball diamond. That fall Todd had several hundred-yard rushing games, was named to the All-state First Team, and became Central Lake's Homecoming King.

Passings included Ruth Ann Nackerman of Lake Orion. A birth mentioned was GERALYN MARIE, to John and Gena McCafferty.

Assistant Deputy Nancy Gebert warned about the dangers of pulling skiers, sleds, and skaters behind a car.

**Thirty Years Ago** The Game Club reported that with the temperature stay-

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ing above zero and there being only 10" of snow in the woods, the deer were doing fine. Fox and coyote were down, judging by their tracks—the mange epidemic of the previous year was blamed. A group of hunters crossed the ice to Garden Island and came back loaded with rabbits. Bill Wagner, Dick Burris, and Sheldon Parker cut down about ten acres of scrub poplar for the game.

The Civic Association revived a past tradition: holding a business seminar to “encourage and promote tourism while preserving the unique characteristics of our Island.”

A public hearing was set for the proposed first Island zoning ordinance.

On January 27<sup>th</sup> a cross-country snowmobile race was held on an 8.3-mile route crossing Barney's and Font Lake. Rich Gillespie came in first, Ed Wojan second, and old Buzzer was last—Buz Anderson, who naturally had several explanations for this miscarriage (which he told simultaneously.)

On February 14<sup>th</sup> a scout plane reported that the ice was smooth and solid all the way to the U.P. so a group of 13 Islanders hopped on snowmobiles and headed for Naubinway: Charlie and Bud Martin, Jerry and Paul LaFreniere, John, Rich, and Robert Gillespie, Ron, Jim, and Ed Wojan, Jim Janda, Dennis Wagner, and Tim Timsak. They set off from the Beaver Lodge about 10:30 a.m. but came to a stop after a half hour when Charlie realized he had forgotten something terribly important, for which Jim Wojan, as the fastest, was sent back to retrieve: his teeth. They reached land by 1:30, and proceeded to celebrate with old friends in several Naubinway homes, leaving in time to get back before dark. Before departing they all asked the same question: “Charlie, this time d'you have your teeth?”

Perky Nelson submitted a story about a picnic held on top of Mt. Pisgah. Ed Eicher submitted a poem in memory of Bert McDonough.

After years of worry, the Islanders decided to look into buying an emergency evacuation plane, and found one which could be purchased (it would have to be by the Charlevoix County Commission) for \$1,400—which included the first year's insurance. In the previous 12 months there had been 5

emergency evacuations by Coast Guard helicopter, so people were very concerned. But when everything was set to buy this plane, a wrench was thrown into the gears by “the local charter service,” which said that this would interfere with private enterprise.

Passings included Fred Floyd, born here in 1896; he had married Ruth Graham on Beaver in 1916; they moved to Muskegon in 1934. Births included Peggy Sue DeRosia, Angela Himebauch, and a son to Charles Carey.

The Chicago Club took out a full-page ad for its St. Patrick's Day party.

**Forty Years Ago** Mild temperatures and bright skies promised an early end to this winter.

Fifteen introduced wild turkeys were seen repeatedly gallivanting on “the road to the airport.”

Rabbit hunting was so successful that six men in Baltimore heard about the full bags and flew here to take part, going home a day and a half later with 52. But they were topped by Leon LaFreniere, who spotted a bunny sitting in front of a juniper, got off a quick shot, and then discovered he had killed a second as well that had been on the other side of the bush.

Mort Neff, Mr. Michigan Outdoors,

spent a day hiking, hunting, and taking pictures that were shown on his Detroit TV show on February 6<sup>th</sup>.

Advance notice of mainland parties was given: the Grand Rapids Party would be first, managed by Charles Earley, followed a week later by the Chicago Party run by Rosie McDonough and Bernie O'Donnell.

On a trip down the East Side Drive Russ and Joy Green and their kids spotted Ronald Gallagher playing a round of winter golf. Ronald was the only senior to make the Honor Roll. A letter from Dr. Sorensen encouraged the Islanders to promote the Beaver Island Golf Course. The legendary perch fishing had been gone for four years, and hunting and fishing trips to the other islands were iffy, but he thought we could count on America's appetite for golf.

Nel Gallagher fell in her home and had to be airlifted by the Coast Guard helicopter. Dick LaFreniere was laid up with a broken kneecap.

The Christian Brothers announced they would return in the summer after apparently having missed a year. The same Coast Guard crew also said they'd be back in the spring.

Dr. Haynes was urged to stop selling cigarettes at the Medical Center.



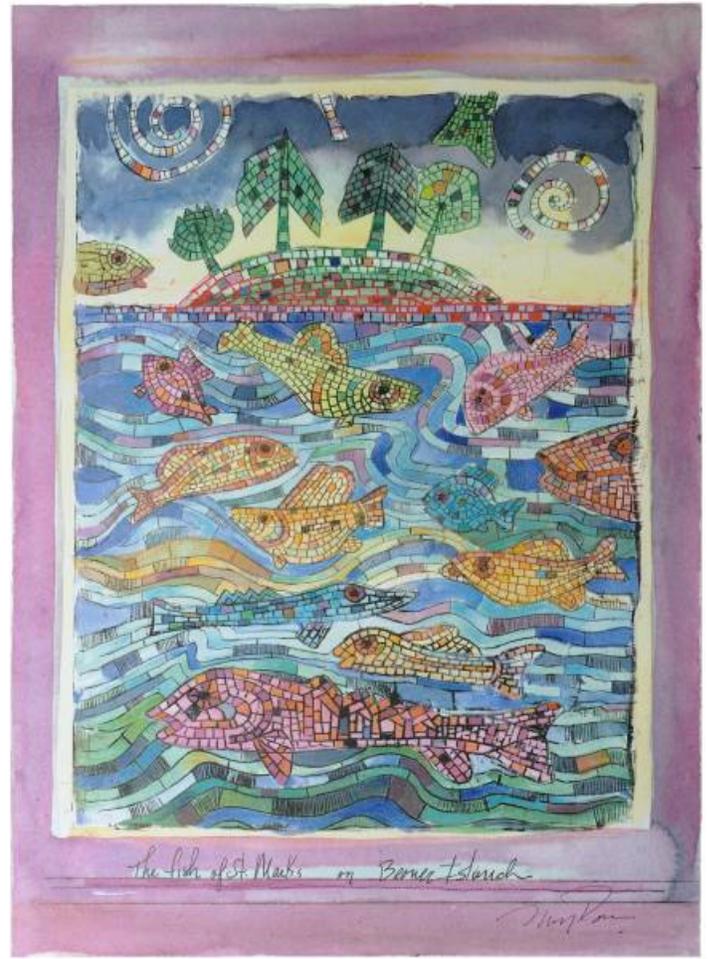
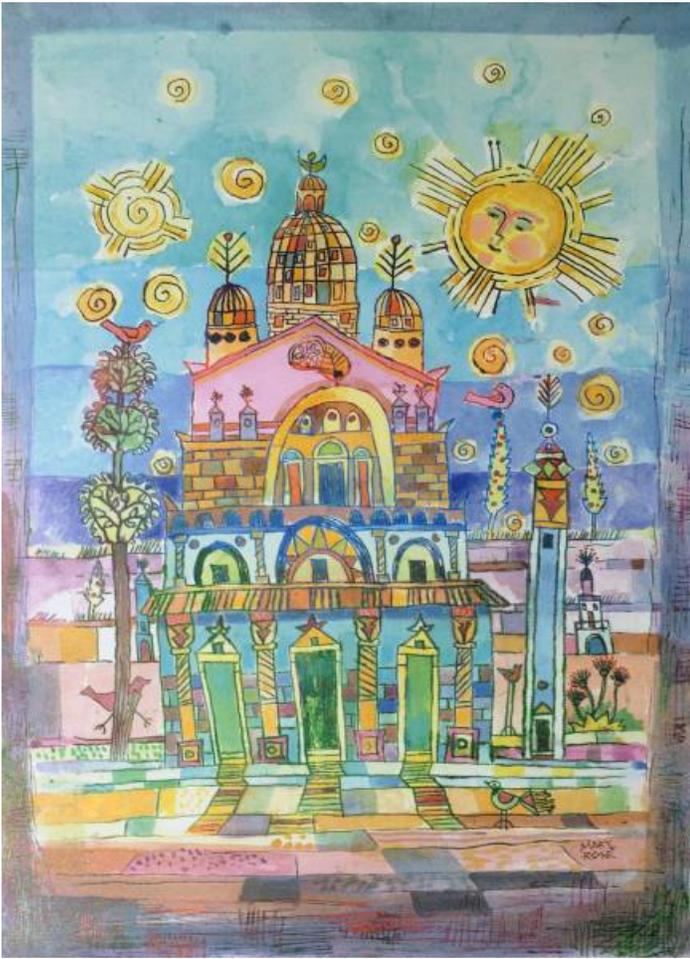
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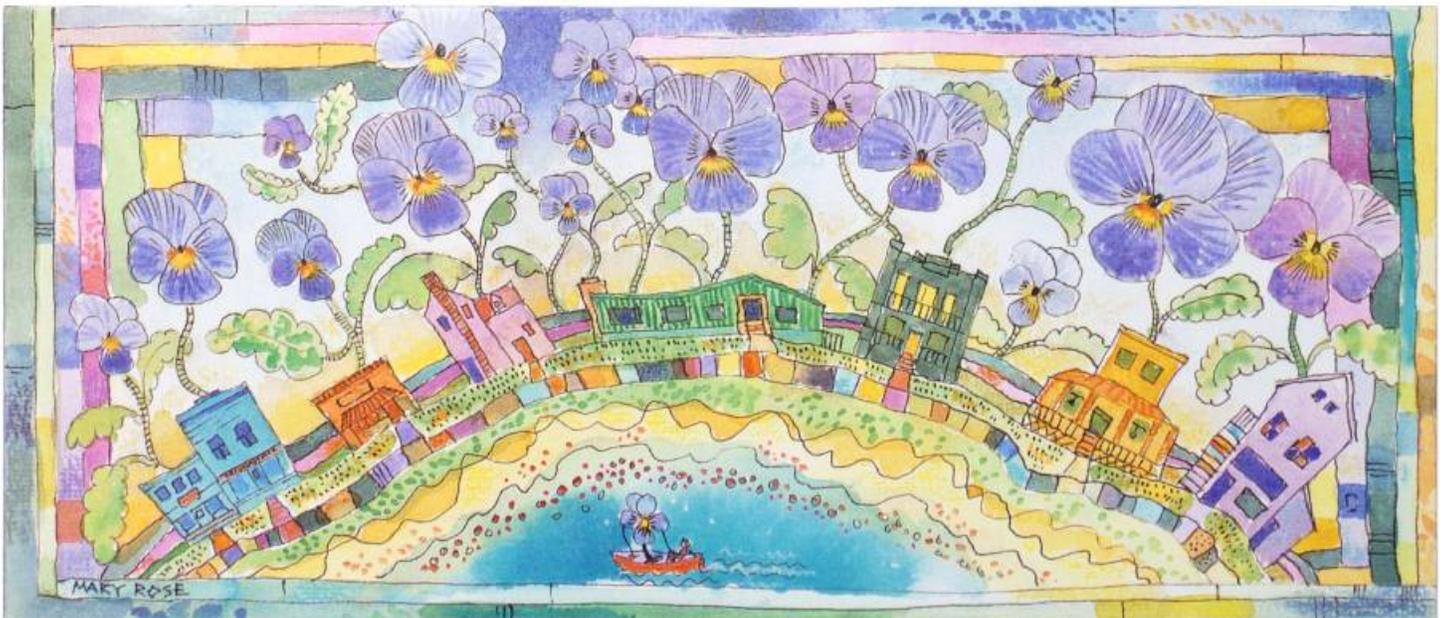
## Mary, oh Mary, How does your Garden Grow

Someone once remarked that they thought Beaver Island's isolation would make it tough to get through the winter here. Yet those hardy souls who stick it out instead of flying south use the winter to recharge batteries worn down by the frantic pace of summer, to jump on a snowmobile and head out through the woods or strike off across a frozen lake.

Others might use the time to catch up on a few good books or finish the trim on the extra bedroom, in case that downstate friend finally lives up to his promise.

Then there's Mary.

Last year at this time the *Beacon* reported how productive Mary was after returning from a continental tour. What

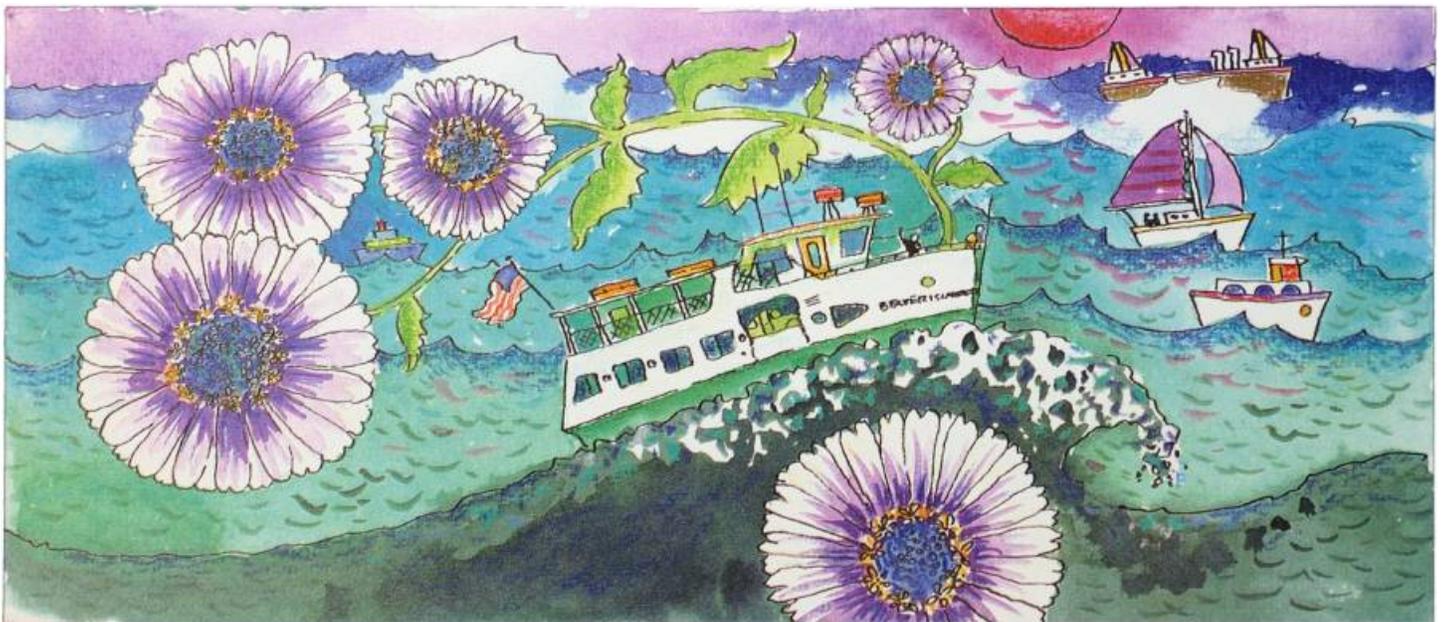




wasn't revealed in that issue was that bouts of intense artistic productivity were more the rule than the exception, as proved by her 40-painting yield from yet another period of fine work. Thank God for winter!

When we visited her in her studio behind her home behind her gallery behind her store, she was unpacking the

first run of prints which had just arrived. Some prints (such as those below, part of her "out of the spotlight" series of landmarks that've been left behind in the public eye) still had to be sliced and folded (by hand) to form her line of new wrap-around cards. Others were ready to shine their cornucopia of color into any room, from any wall.



## A Walk in the Woods

On Saturday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>, fearing the advent of winter, I went for a walk at 4:15, telling my wife I was going to the end of Garrett Cole's driveway—a new half mile road about a thousand feet west of us. This would be my third attempt at reaching our own back yard (I've been able to go the other way without a problem.) So I set off, passed the old apple trees now hidden by pines, passed a large pile of rocks whose concave top had once served as a deer blind (I was told) for Jim Wojan, and at an appropriate moment struck out through the woods. But after awhile I heard hounds and a gun behind me, which put some degree of pressure on my constant decisions of which way to turn. I came upon stone walls, and startled a large grouse, and then began hugging a bog, fighting my way through a thick cedar grove without deer trails.

For awhile the bog was on my right; then it was on my left. That was okay—maybe I'd locate the legendary isthmus I'd seen on aerial photographs. It was about twenty-eight degrees, but much water was ice-free. I couldn't

decipher the cause of some water being frozen solid and other nearby sections being liquid. The moon was visible, nearly straight up but with just enough lean to let me use it to at least walk in a straight direction, but unfortunately the only reading I had taken at the onset was that the clouds were moving north and when I sought to use this information to determine the position of the moon, I made a mistake. Perhaps the clouds changed, but in any event by dusk I began going east instead of my intended north.

At one point I came upon a particular stone pile I had marked on a junket out of our back yard the previous year, so I knew exactly where I was—but not which direction to take. Once again I made the mistake of following the moon, whereas if I'd turned left I would have been on a familiar trail in seven hundred feet.

A half hour later a new bog on my left was easy to identify, and when I found an old barbed wire fence skirting through it I knew where I was again and this time the true direction: I was

near the SE corner of a large bog located a half mile SE of my home. But I was also close to a trail I had previously found a little to the east that headed into the O'Donnell yard, so I decided to continue walking east.

Now it was dark, and freshly chewed beaver logs indicated recent activity. Sure enough, soon the ground was somewhat flooded, and I had to veer to the south to continue. It was one careful step at a time, slow going hopping from one clump of grass to another, and then I poked myself in the eye. Not badly, but enough to scramble my thinking. Yet thinking was probably not needed at this point because my only option was to keep moving under the leadership of the moon.

Following a modest ridge, I fought my way through some dense junipers and came upon a wonderful sight: Doug Bugai's yard light, shining over the edge of Round Lake from a half mile away. Then I found something even better: the end of a trail that had come towards me from the east. The way the grass was flattened made me

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## Keeping our Eyes and Ears Open

suspect a beaver drag, but after awhile it seemed more like one made by an ATV. In places it disappeared, but then it came back. Soon I was in a higher field, and then in the back of the Ricksgers farm, and then emerging from its driveway onto the King's Highway. Unfortunately not a car was about. I walked to the laundry, had a much-needed drink of water, and then walked home down Barney's Lake Road.

A half mile away I heard a car horn and knew immediately that my wife had driven to the end of Garrett's road and was guiding me back. By the time I reached our drive she had just decided to check back, so we met up a hundred feet from home. All in all it was four tough miles for me, but once I'd scarfed down what was left of our turkey dinner from the night before it lost its grip on me and had become part of my history.

What I did right: I was warmly dressed, including my hundred dollar Cabela's boots. What I did wrong: my wife's compass, which I sometimes carry, had been left on the counter.

– Bill Cashman

(Reprinted from *Michigan History Magazine* with the author's permission)

My wife Pat and I purchased a cabin on the southeast end of Beaver Island in 1997. It's about 50' from the water's edge on Cable's Bay. We spend perhaps a third of the year there and try to visit once every month. We've shared many memorable moments with family and friends at our cabin.

After waking to the sound of waves lapping the shore, then watching a spectacular sunrise, our days are filled with a variety of adventures depending on the season—hiking the shoreline looking for 'beach glass;' walking the woods searching for wild mushrooms and berries; hunting deer, wild turkey, ruffed grouse, squirrel, and snowshoe hare; splitting firewood; fishing on one of the inland lakes; canoeing; cross-country skiing; snowshoeing; or just sitting on the deck watching the freighters and sailboats drift past, or mama merganser teaching her chicks how to dive for their dinner. After a campfire and stargazing we lie in bed listening to distant coyotes howl-

ing and loons calling to their mates as we drift off to sleep.

People often ask us, "But what do you *do* on Beaver Island?" You really don't have to do anything—except keep your eyes and ears open.

– Ken Gittersonke

## Speaking of Eagles

In the middle of January Dr. Paul Nelson told some friends about having seen four bald eagles devouring game on the ice at Sand Bay—plus a fifth hovering nearby, too young to have a cap.

One of those in his audience, Terry Saxton, said that he didn't generally like story-toppers, *but* the other day he'd been at Beaver Head and was watching *five* bald eagles circling when *two more* came soaring in over the ice, so at one time there were *seven* within view.

## Birdhouses For Sale

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## The Challenger Tucks In at Sand Bay



Over the Holidays, Sand Bay residents were treated to a close up view of the mighty *Southdown Challenger*, the oldest boat still trading on the Great Lakes. Formerly named the *Medusa Challenger*, this 551' heavy-oil-burning steamer dates to 1906, when it rolled off the Great Lakes Engineering Works line in Ecorse as *Hull #17*. Along with the car ferry *Badger*, she is one of only two vessels still powered by the classic Skinner "Uniflow" engine.

Originally named the *William P. Snyder*, she sailed for her first owners until 1926. During that run she was often injured, striking a concrete dock in 1916 and sustaining "stress of weather" damage a year later. In 1925 she hit an underwater impediment and needed six bottom shell plates repaired.

The following year she became the *Elton Hoyt II* for the Stewart Furnace Company in Cleveland, but was sold to the Youngstown Steamship Company after three years. Then she became the property of the Interlake Steamship Company, which repowered her with a Uniflow in 1950. That fall she was in a head-on collision with the *Enders M.*



*Voorhees* during a snowstorm in the Straits.

After repairs she became the *Alex D. Chisholm* and sailed for another ten years. In 1966 the laid-up hull was purchased by Medusa and converted into a cement carrier by Manitowoc Shipbuilding. She was renamed again, becoming the *Medusa Challenger*, Medusa's first large ship, and began moving cement from Charlevoix to Chicago, Milwaukee, Detroit, and Cleveland.

While at anchor in a fog in Lake St. Claire in 1976, she was hit by winds and forced aground. The following year she rescued two people from a capsized boat in Lake Michigan after they'd been in the drink for 15 hours. In the fall of 1997 she was hit by a water spout while passing White Shoal Light on the way to Charlevoix. The spotlight on the wheelhouse was lifted, as were the crew's bikes stored on deck. Beaver Islanders who sailed her (Ed McCann, Bud Left, Jack Bradley, and, currently, *Moondance* darling John Cull, to name a few) certainly had their share of adventures.

A year later Medusa was purchased by Southdown, generating her current name.



*photographs taken from the shore at Sand Bay on Christmas Day*

## The “Bob S” Roof

In mid January the Beaver Island Historical Society received some unexpected news: the DEQ permit for driving three pressure-treated pilings into the ground at the waterward edge of the *Bob S* to support a roof over this deteriorating but irreplaceable old fish boat, was denied—along with a permit to install a revetment. This was surprising, because in an on-site visit in July DEQ agent Robyn Schmidt had said, “Don’t worry, you’ll get your permit.”

Because of the weight of the 50’

tug, it could not be positioned one foot farther away from the shore when it was put in place almost 15 years ago. Consequently its stern hangs over the high-water mark, supported by a sturdy fieldstone crib. That was fine, because it afforded a good view to those passing on the street.

The plan has been to protect the boat with a 24’ x 60’ roof which, if funds become available, could be enclosed to create a building where the boat could be restored, which could

then be used for additional Marine Museum displays.

According to BIHS Director Bill Cashman, this won’t necessarily stop the building of a roof, but will make it more expensive. “It looks like about 12’ of the structure will have to be cantilevered,” he said. “We are looking at different ways for doing this—with some kind of vertical truss.

“The problem isn’t supporting the roof, or the snow load. It’s preventing lift-off—the roof will be open until there is enough money to close it in. The real shame here is that the added structure won’t look authentic.”

The BIHS Board is deciding whether or not to appeal this decision, and, if it does, whether or not to hire one of the independent consultants who make a living helping people fight through all the red tape.

### Moondance moves Forward

Shane Brennan informs us he was recently in Chicago (after filming on Arran More and aboard the *Jeannie Johnston*) to negotiate with PBS. Let’s hope his film is shown on our Channel 6.

### Letters to the Editor:

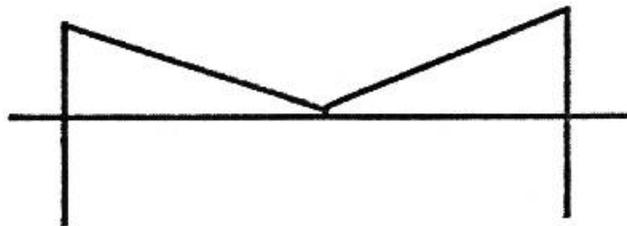
I am looking for a poem that was read to an audience on Beaver Island in the 1960s.

The poem might be about a resident of Beaver Island, a nasty old man who hated everybody and everything. He was given bird seed as a gift by some “stupid” person. He threw it outside on a log, and started watching the birds come to feed. He noticed that different birds ate different seeds so he mixed his own seed to attract more birds.

He began building feeders and then birdhouses that eventually brought in more birds. Finally he started to invite people to his home to watch the birds, and eventually became a nice man in the community.

Can anyone help? A teacher at our local high school here in Tucson, who was born and raised in MI, remembers this poem several years back and would love to hear it again. I told him I would help find it.

– Thanks, Wanda Wagner



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Judy or Liz (2441) Barb (2520) Betty (2922) or Beth (2820)

## Maggie Bennett 1934 – 2004

Margaret Ann Bennett, 70, formerly of Beaver Island, passed away on January 6<sup>th</sup> in Raritan Township, NJ. Born in Grand Rapids in 1933 to the late John and Harriet DeKruyter Kremer, she was a retired teacher who owned and operated the Happy Time Nursery and Day Care in West Caldwell, NJ, for 30 years. She is survived by two daughters, Martha Lanewala and Sarah Gregory, a son, Paul Bennett, a brother, John Kremer, a sister, Mary Kremer-Hartrick, and five grandchildren.

## Upcoming Events

**The 3rd Annual Chili Cook-Off** will be held **Thursday March 11<sup>th</sup>** at the Peaine Township Hall from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Judging will be from 5:00 - 5:30 p.m. Start sprucing up your recipes to enter in the contest! Any varieties or combinations of Chilies are welcome and invited to enter: milds, mediums, or the blazingly hot. Past creations have included morel, grouse, hermaphrodite deer, chicken, vegetarian, and, from the Lighthouse School, Five-alarm Fire. Sponsored by the Beaver Island Sports Boosters. Free Will donation. It will be a lot of fun! For information contact Diane McDonough at 448-2164.

**The Beaver Island Club of Grand Rapids** will celebrate St. Patrick's Day on **February 14<sup>th</sup>** (see the boxed ad to the right for directions and information.)

**St. Patrick's Day** will be celebrated on the Island on **March 20<sup>th</sup>** and of course the famous Beaver Island St. Patrick's Day Games held at the Shamrock are an event not to be missed!

**The Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year Banquet** will be held **Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup>** at Nina's Restaurant. The criteria for the award is "an individual or organization that has made a significant contribution to making Beaver Island a better place to live, work, or visit." Nomination forms can be found on our web site at: [beaverbeacon.com/citizen-of-the-year](http://beaverbeacon.com/citizen-of-the-year) or from the Chamber of Commerce directly, P.O. Box 5; Beaver Island, MI 49782; e-mail [chamber@beaverisland.org](mailto:chamber@beaverisland.org) or phone (231) 448-2505. Deadline for nominations is April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

## Mary McCauley 1909 – 2004

Mary Marcella McCauley, 95, of Frankfort but descended from one of several McCauley families to settle here, died Saturday, Jan. 3, 2004, at Paul Oliver Memorial Hospital.

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 7, at St. Ann Catholic Church, with Fr. Ray Cotter, celebrant. Friends may call at the time of services.

The Frankfort Chapel and the McElduff Funeral Home, handled the final arrangements.

## To the Editor

Helen B. Merson, age 93, passed away March 1st, 2003. She and her forebearers were very early visitors and admirers of the natural beauties of Beaver Island. In recent years, and in her final bequest, Helen has donated funds to the Little Traverse Conservancy for the purchase of land on Beaver. It would be in keeping with her wishes if this letter might encourage others to donate to the Conservancy for the same worthy purpose.

–Jane Merson Moore

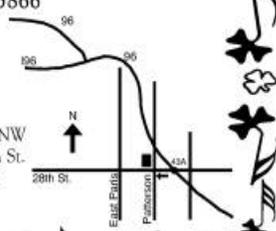
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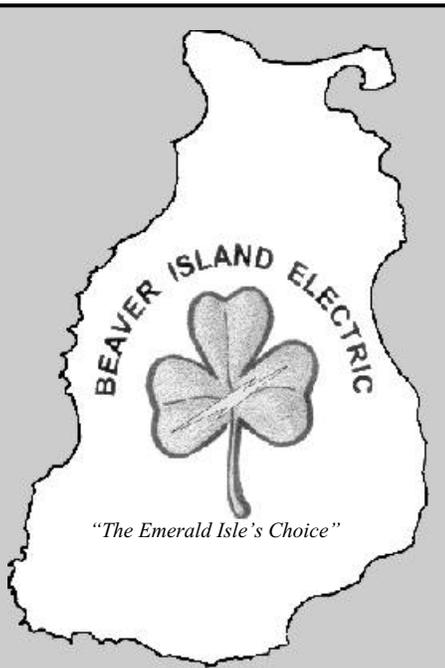
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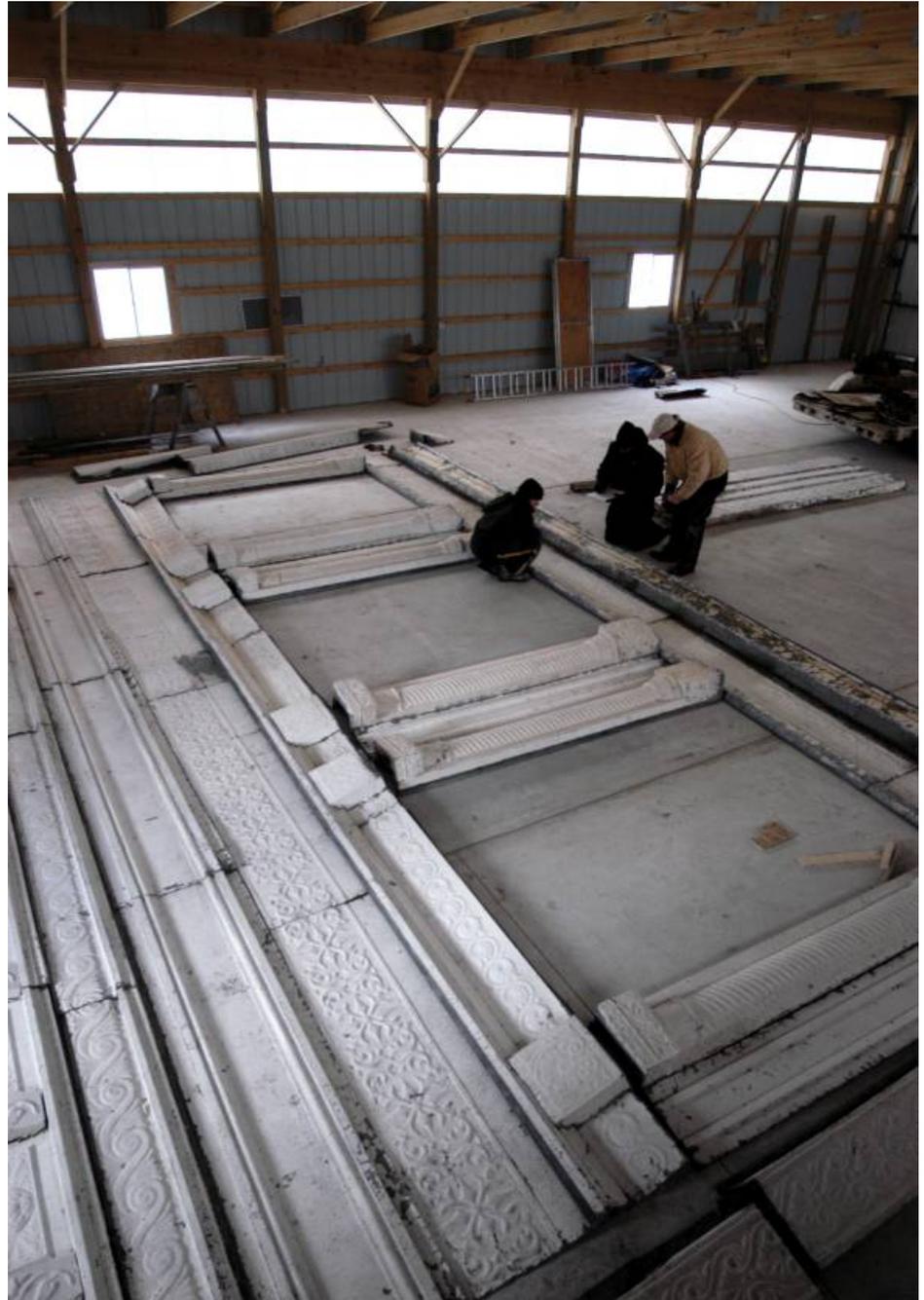


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## The Old Store Facade Sized up for New Building

PABI's architect and his assistants met with PABI volunteers in early January to arrange and measure the tin panels from the old Dockside Market's

facade. These panels were carefully taken down and put into storage. Don Tritsch and his helpers laid them out in Bud Martin's hangar. Thankfully the set

is complete. Some pieces project forward, such as the columns, so the architects will have to design a wood substructure that they'll grip like a glove.

## A Christmas Tree—Portrait of a Life

The year was 1981. We awoke on Christmas morning to find the seven-foot Christmas tree had fallen over during the night. A few days earlier, my college-age sons had volunteered to set up the tree, something they had never done before. This task was previously performed by their step-dad but he died three months before the holiday. I had promised them a joyous Christmas and I was sticking to it. The stand was a relic, as I recall, and the tree wobbled a bit at first but they declared it would be stable. We decorated it with all the ornaments we had collected over the years. Three ornaments were very old. One was a tiny bell with a clapper inside; it was delicate blown glass. It was a treasure to me as it came from my husband's grandmother. The bell was the only ornament that was broken. Without making a fuss I picked up all the pieces I could find and put them in a tiny box lined with cotton. I kept that broken ornament for years. It was as though it was the shattered pieces of my life. When I finally discarded it, I knew I was ready to move on.

This year Joe and I cut our Christmas tree from the last of the Douglas Firs on the old Joe B. West Christmas Tree Farm on Beaver Island. It was a seedling from his original plantings since all the mature trees were

at least 40 feet high. It too is seven feet high but stands erect and solid in the water-filled base. Every evening and some afternoons I turn on the tree lights and gaze at this lacy, soft-needled tree decorated with ornaments I have collected for over half of my lifetime.

I still have the remaining two ancient blown glass ornaments from the tree of 1981. They grace the top boughs of our tree every year. Each year I add at least one new ornament and some times several. Years ago I shopped at the original Crate and Barrel in Chicago's Old Town. Most of those were handcrafted wooden trinkets such as woodcuts of snowflakes, hand painted angels, tiny toys, birds, and clear blown-glass bells. While shopping at the Strawberry Basket in North Muskegon I found a collection of ornaments made out of wooden clothespins – carolers, a drummer, and a drum major. My all-time favorite from that store is the "Bad Boy Ornament." This two-inch wooden figure is complete with a cherubic face and red stocking cap. Push on the pom-pom of the hat and he sticks out his tongue. Some were purchased from the Beaver Boat-tique. There I found a tiny hand-painted pike, a Downey woodpecker, and a humming bird and blue jay crafted from mushrooms. There is a brass horn I found in a little store in

Crystal Lake, and a butternut on a wooden stem that looks like a morel mushroom. There are ornaments that depict our lifestyle too, like the chef, hiking boot, anglers, lures, a garden rake, and a miniature bird feeder filled with actual seeds. Another favorite is a red polka-dot starfish that I found on Anna Maria Island.

Some ornaments were gifts from family and friends. I love my collection of hearts from my son and his family, along with the personalized cinnamon ornament shaped like a house for me and a wooden moose holding a heart for Joe. I have a gold gilt pear from Bali and a blown-glass candy cane. One friend gave me a miniature collection of real dried herbs, another a sled made from Popsicle sticks holding a tiny gift. I can't forget the Black Labrador blowing a whistle. My brother sent me a Lalique crystal crescent moon for 1999 so we would not forget that century.

In retrospect, a Christmas tree and how it's decorated is really a symbol of our lives. All those ornaments bring back memories to savor and enjoy—a shopping trip, a special friendship, and the joy of family. This year I added a single ornament, a 1½-inch square silver gift box complete with silver bow. It represents a gift—that gift is Life. Cherish it. —Lois Williams

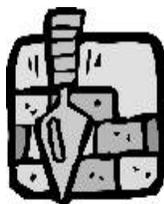
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## Charlevoix County Commission Meeting Synopsis

The Charlevoix County Board of Commissioners met at 7:00 p.m. on **December 29**, 2003 in Charlevoix. All Commissioners were present.

Minutes of the December 10, 2003 meeting were approved by consensus.

Motion approved Resolution #03-105, Grandvue Operating Transfer, and authorized the County Treasurer to make transfer as outlined.

Motion approved Resolution #03-106 Assessing Fees, Rates to be effective for the 2005 Assessing Year.

Motion approved Resolution #03-107, 2004 Building Inspection Department Budget

Motion approved Resolution #03-108, Corrections Officers Agreement, and authorized Chairman Frykberg to sign said agreement.

Motion approved Resolution #03-109, Bank Depositories for 2004 and authorized the County Treasurer to use these designated institutions.

Motion approved Resolution #03-110, 2003 Budget Deficits.

Motion approved Resolution #03-111, Amend Subsidiary Fund Budgets.

Motion adjourned the 135<sup>th</sup> session of the Board of Commissioners.

The Charlevoix County Board of Commissioners met again at 3:00 p.m. on **January 14**, 2004 in Charlevoix. All Commissioners were present.

Motion approved the minutes of the December 29, 2003 meeting.

Motion elected Commissioner Reinhardt temporary Chairman.

Secret Ballot declared Commissioner Patrick permanent Chairman.

Motion declared Commissioner Roloff Vice-Chairman.

The Board agreed to keep the meeting schedule for 2004 the same as 2003's meeting schedule.

**Meeting Schedule, Board of Commissioners:** Second Wednesday, monthly 3:00 p.m. Fourth Wednesday, monthly 7:00 p.m.

**Committee of the Whole:** As necessary (No set schedule)

**Personnel/Internal Government Committee:** First Wednesday, monthly, 3:00 p.m.

**Public Safety/Judicial/Building & Grounds Committee:** First Tuesday, monthly 3:00 p.m.

Motion continued publication of synopsis of Commission meetings in County newspapers.

Motion approved appointment of

Oral Sutliff to the FIA Board to finish Eleanor Sutliff's term.

Motion approved the appointment of Cheryl Beyer as Deputy Emergency Services.

Motion approved the slate of appointments as agreed upon.

Motion approved Resolution #04-001, Computer Support Agreement.

Motion approved the reappointment of John Kurtz and Ellen Zienert to the Workforce Development Board for two-year terms.

Motion approved Resolution #04-002, Drunk Driver Jail Reduction and Community Treatment Program.

Motion approved hiring a part-time position for IT with Personnel to decide if it will be a part-time county employee or a part-time contractual position.

Motion adjourned the 136<sup>th</sup> session of the Board of Commissioners.

– Jane E. Brannon, County Clerk

### Lost

From the boat dock after returning on the last boat, a black cloth duffel-style suitcase with a *Coronet Carpets* sticker, full of men's clothes including a red plaid X-L flannel men's nightgown and a temporary gold crown. (231) 838-0019



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## Death of close friend leaves an unfillable void

When I heard the news, my first reaction was anger.

It was outrageous, because my friend was almost certainly going to die at the age of 50, and because I knew I never could find another even close to being like him. If you're almost 66 years old and have had one real male "soul mate" in all that time, what are the odds of finding another?

He was Jim Remick - he was buried Monday - and we met about seven years ago while having lunch, singly, at the Pike Street restaurant in downtown Pontiac. We struck up a conversation that lasted the rest of his life.

Until he moved to Beaver Island a year ago, we had lunch almost every week he was in town from that time on, at least once and sometimes three or four times.

Jim's office was in the old General Printing building and overlooked the restaurant. It was the entire back of the second floor and had bookshelves and a sofa and assorted chairs, a striking mural on one wall, and a full bath.

From there he presided via his computer over several trucking companies he helped found. They delivered most of Montgomery Ward's appliances in the

United States. When Ward's went out of business, he nimbly began doing the same for Best Buy.

When he moved to the Island, the computer and its link to the business went with him, to his den.

During our lunches and otherwise, neither of us ever had to "draw a picture" for the other to fully understand what he was saying.

There was no gossip, no sports talk, just a process of explaining ourselves to each other; who we were, how we got there, the books we'd read. We shared a fondness for Ernest Hemingway. In fact, Jim was writing a credible novel.

When I visited the Remicks at their Beaver Island home in October, we picked up where we'd left off. There were e-mails and letters, too.

He made his business lucrative. And Jim was generous in sharing what he had, as when I was invited along on some sailing trips between Beaver, as it's known there, and Charlevoix.

I wrote of one, the time an erroneous weather forecast put us in 45 to 50-mile-an-hour winds and 10 to 12-foot waves. I didn't worry. He was a good sailor with a good boat, one he'd picked out with the possibility of just such an unexpected

test in mind.

His thoroughness served him well on all fronts.

When Jim was told a brain tumor would kill him, my impression is that he'd long since arranged his life just as he wanted it.

My anger soon was combined with a sense of loss. But then I remembered that mourning mostly is about ourselves, what we're losing. Whatever we believe about death, we understand, deep down, that the deceased did not suffer a loss, beyond the moment of knowledge of the coming fate.

Within a couple of days of his learning of the tumor, it caused a debilitating and soon fatal hemorrhagic stroke.

So, we're missing him; he's not missing us. It helps a lot to know that. And I like to think that his having become what he'd wanted to be, and knowing it, helped him in his final lucid hours.

Jim went out a quiet champion.

And those of us who loved him, first and foremost including his wife, Jill, and children Amy and Michael, are blessed for having had the opportunity, irreplaceable though he is.

— Neil Munro, editor  
*The Daily Oakland Press*



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## Bill Hannon 1944 – 2004

Dr. William E. Hannon, age 60, of N2093 S. Tower Rd., Chilton, died on Sunday December 28, 2003, at his home surrounded by his family and friends, following a brief battle with cancer.

He was born on January 16, 1943 in Chicago, son of the late John W. and Rose (McClory) Hannon. He married Janice N. Hogan of Peabody, MA on July 25, 1985 in Milwaukee. Dr. Hannon served in the US Navy and went on to receive his degree at Loyola Medical School, serving his residency at St. Francis Hospital in Evanston, IL. He served as a pathologist at several hospitals in the Rockport, MA area before moving to Chilton in 1984, when he began a career with the Calumet Medical Center. He also served as Medical Director of Laboratory Services, Deputy Medical Examiner for Calumet County, Treasurer of the

Calumet County Chapter of the Wisconsin Medical Association, a member of the College of American Pathologists, and was a former President of the Calumet Medical Center Medical Staff. He was a member of Holy Trinity Catholic Parish in Jericho where he served as treasurer.

Bill loved sailing and spending summers at their home on Beaver Island, MI. He is survived by his wife, Janice of Chilton; six children: Julie Ann (Philip) Abrams of Lexington, MA; Sharon (Scott) Trefry of Danvers, MA; Sheila J. Hannon of Elgin, IL; Christopher William, Colleen, and Noelle Hannon of Chilton; six grandchildren: Curtis, Brian, Jason William, Gina Rose Trefry and Samuel and Gino Abrams; two brothers: John W. Hannon of Indianapolis, IN; James (Nancy) Hannon of Lombard, IL; two sisters:

Janet (Patrick) O'Callahan of Algonquin, IL and Mary Beth (Michael) Lyons of Wheaton, IL; and many nieces, nephews and friends. He was recently preceded in death by his brother Robert J. Hannon.

Funeral Services were held on Wednesday December 31, 2003 at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Jericho with the Rev. Gary New S.D.S. officiating. Burial will take place at Holy Cross Cemetery in Beaver Island, MI. Visitation was at the Wieting Family Funeral Home, 411 W. Main St. Chilton, from 4 to 8 PM on Tuesday and again on Wednesday from 9:30 to 10:30 AM when family prayers were held. A Parish prayer service was held Tuesday evening at the funeral home.

A Memorial fund has been established in the name of Dr. William E. Hannon.

## Letters to the Editor: Wanted: EMS Patients

As you may have heard, I'm shooting a documentary about the Beaver Island EMS for my Master's Degree. I would like to interview persons who have been helped by our EMS.

Due to privacy issues, I need you to contact me at 448-2416 so I can schedule interviews. This video may inspire people to get involved and volunteer with their local EMS, and/or help our local EMS down the road as they need specialized equipment or funding. I understand you may feel shy talking about your medical emergency on camera, but I will do everything I can to make you comfortable. With your help I

can deliver the unique and powerful story of emergency medicine on a little island in Lake Michigan.

Here are some typical questions I've been asked:

**Q:** Can I see the interview questions in advance?

**A:** Unfortunately this would give you time to prepare answers that sound well... prepared. I want to capture your story with a realism and sincerity that can only come from having a natural conversation while the camera is running.

**Q:** How long will the interview take?

**A:** The actual interview will only take 30-45 minutes. Setup and tear-down of the camera and lighting take longer, but you won't need to be present.

**Q:** Where will this film be shown to an audience?

**A:** When completed, this documentary will be submitted to PBS for consideration, and possibly, hopefully, premiered locally.

**Q:** How do I contact you to schedule an interview?

**A:** Call me at 448-2416, and we can set up a time and talk about any other questions you might have..

– Phillip (Mike) Moore

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## Beaver Island Treasure Melissa Bailey

Conventional wisdom says to write about individuals who have lived a full life. Better yet, honor only those whose life can be measured once it's ended. Melissa Bailey is an exception to that rule. At age 16, a junior at Beaver Island Community School, her peers hold her in high esteem. She exhibits individuality, character, faith, academic excellence, and balance. The 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders last year noted Melissa as a role model. If you've seen her in a local drama, or singing at the Christian Church, or busing tables at Beaver Island Lodge, you know she's lovely to behold... a *Bohemian Beauty*.

Melissa's heritage comes from parents who guide her with humor and grace. Extended family – grandparents, uncles, aunts and cousins – contribute to the quality of her life. She's been a writer since her early elementary years and attributes much of her skill and love of writing to her teachers. Melissa attended MAD (Music/Art/Drama) Camp when it was first offered on Beaver Island and says it was Penny, a counselor there, who encouraged her to write poetry.

In 2003, Melissa took first place in the Albion College Poetry Contest.



Professors from Albion's English Department judged hers the best entry from over 400 high school contestants. Her writing belies her years. When professional vocalist Martha Guth stayed on the Island last winter, Melissa took the opportunity to have voice lessons from her. Melissa also enjoys playing volleyball for Beaver Island Community School.

Growing up on Beaver Island was "an awesome experience," according to Melissa. She values the closeness and

beauty here. However, grateful to have grown up on Beaver Island, Melissa nonetheless says she desires *flavor* in her life and is looking forward to opportunities elsewhere. She anticipates attending a fine arts college after completing high school next year.

T. S. Elliot is Melissa's favorite poet. Her historical role models include Martin Luther King, Jr., Abraham Lincoln, and Humphrey Bogart. Appreciation for her parents and teachers shines through mature eyes.

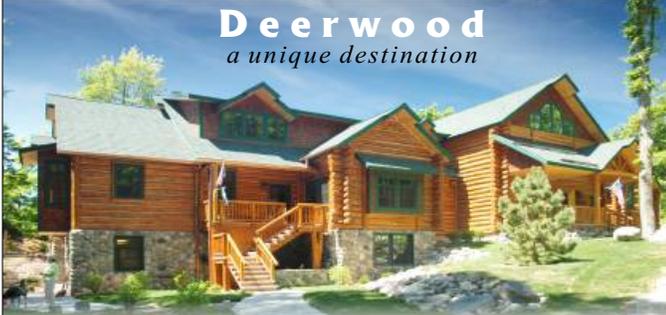
None of us know what the future holds, but even the young are known by their doings. Someday we may proudly be saying to others, *We knew Melissa when...*

– M. Clark Duda

### "Child of the Sea"

When the BIHS announced it would reprint this book again this spring, it received some offers of help. Noted authors Mary Louise Clifford and Candace Clifford (*Women who Kept the Lights*) have written a preface—they featured Elizabeth Whitney Williams in their own book. And Island artist Mary Scholl (whose work fills pages 14-15) is doing a painting for the cover.

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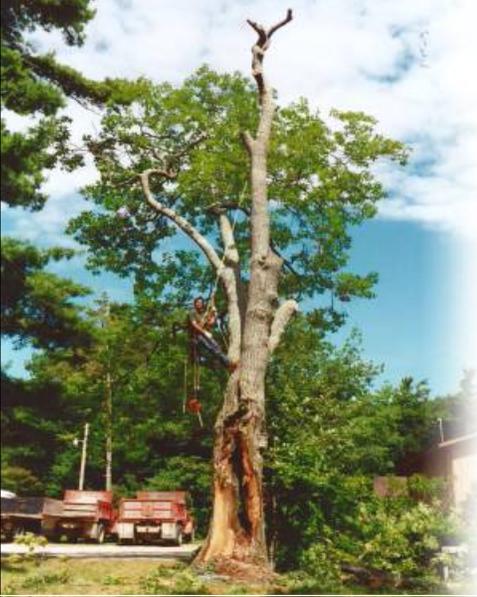
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Melissa Bailey's winning entry in Albion College's Poetry Contest 2003, written September 2001

I thought first,  
 his fingers are very small,  
 how can I shake them  
 without my hand sliding off?  
 Then I thought,  
 his facial hair is perfectly straight;  
 his haircut is not.  
 I slid my legs together  
 when I walked so he could see the  
 hourglass;  
 make him wish he could turn it  
 upside down and watch  
 the sand go down.  
 I thought, his eyes are very blue,  
 but not that they aren't too light;  
 I don't have to squint to see them,  
 and I like that;  
 I think I will marry him.  
 "This is where we do the CAT scans."  
 I thought, I am a CAT.  
 He laughs like a little boy.  
 I tried to stand very close to him  
 when he stopped to point at  
 an x-ray being taken  
 of a blonde woman's esophagus.  
 I looked at him from the corner of my  
 eye,  
 and asked about the machines;  
 imagined quickly  
 being locked in this room,  
 talking over barium drinks,  
 and looking at R-rated x-rays

of our bodies,  
 under the romance of the fluorescent  
 Lights.  
 And I remember thinking,  
 he does not look like the picture  
 on his name tag,  
 maybe he is not who he says he is.  
 I said to him, "I am listening."  
 "Yeah," he said, looking up to me, "I  
 know."  
 I think, We are married.  
 "I like bones," I said after that,  
 "maybe I could be a radiologist, too."  
 I thought,  
 Then I could be with you, my love,  
 and I could show you all my bones,  
 but I didn't say it out loud, even though  
 I opened my mouth to.  
 I am still thinking  
 about him and his great white  
 machines,  
 about having to lay before him,  
 while they glide over me.  
 I made a note to myself,  
 while he explained the procedure for a  
 mammogram:  
 Try and learn his last name;  
 never forget it.  
 "That's the end of the tour."  
 My heart drops from somewhere up  
 high  
 and falls into three pieces;  
 he motions with his hand

to follow him to the lobby.  
 I can see his very small fingers  
 curling into a fist.  
 We walk close together,  
 shoulders barely inches apart,  
 to the hall.  
 I do not want to leave this man  
 all alone in a radioactive room.  
 I am afraid he will die.  
 Maybe, I think with my eyes  
 trailing along the floor  
 like a dragging string,  
 I have an extra bone  
 I do not need.  
 I could give it to him.  
 We come to the lobby.  
 Neither of us turn to leave.  
 Take my bones. Take them out from  
 under me.  
 Just one more barium drink  
 in the back room,  
 I think.  
 Just one more.  
 Then I will have the strength to leave.  
 "If you are ever involved in something  
 radiological,  
 call me," he says,  
 with a smile,  
 and holds out those very small fingers.  
 I shake them,  
 and my hand does not slide off  
 I think,  
 I am married.

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## One Hundred Years Ago

Charlevoix Sentinel February 4, 1904 Local News: "A Beaver Island correspondent writes: 'The officers of Peaine Township, realizing the immense benefit of a good road through the center of the Island the entire length, put their plan before a meeting of the taxpayers and it was unanimously carried to extend the road to Lake Genessert, at least. Raymond McDonald and W. W. Green are the contractors, and will begin the work at once.'"

Northern Michigan: "On Sunday, Jan. 17<sup>th</sup>, mail was carried over the ice from St. Ignace to Mackinaw Island by dog team. Last week also, a mail train on the ice and snow was operated between Beaver Island and Cross Village. Notwithstanding the exceedingly cold weather the ice in the straits is unsafe where heavily blanketed by snow. Where the wind has carried the snow away there is 14 to 16 inches of blue ice, and perhaps at a distance of a few miles where a heavy covering of snow has been left as it fell and added to by the drifting winds, but a thin sheet of ice exists, and that is being undercut by currents in places."

February 11, 1904 Local News: "One thing is certain. The cold winter has been favorable to the Beaver Island mail route. Two trips per week are made between St James and Cross Village and there is good

prospect for a protracted continuance of good sleighing between those two points for a month yet, at least."

"Wednesday morning the temperature registered 24 below zero, which beats the record."

February 18, 1904 Beaver Island News: "Perch fishing in the harbor is very light this winter."

"Tim Roddy has finished his winter's cut of timber on Hog Island."

"McCanns are building an addition to their dock for fishing purposes."

"There is some agitation over the subject of organizing a fisherman's union here."

"A number of local sports are quite successful in spearing Mackinaw trout through the ice."

"A pleasant evening was spent at flinch at Dr. Wilkerson's by a few friends last week."

"The ice harvest is all completed around the harbor now, a very good product was cut this year."

"Mr. and Mrs. William Hurd were the recipients of a delightful valentine Sunday morning, a fine seven pound girl."

"Whist parties are being given each week at Donlevy's, Gibson's and Conde Gallagher's to while away the long winter hours."

"John Lighton returned from Grand Haven last week where he was successful in passing the examination for a 100 ton engineer's license."

"Now that the mill is shut down the people who have been depending on it for wood will have to dig for the woods or freeze, till the mill starts again at least."

"Frank Sherman left Hog Island Saturday morning for Charlevoix on foot across the ice, a distance of nearly 40 miles. It has not been learned whether he reached his destination or not."

"Mrs Annie Gatliff gave the Valentine Ball Feb. 15, at Gallagher's hall. Although the mercury hovered around 20 degrees below zero a goodly sized crowd reported a pleasant time."

"Prospects bid fair at present for a combination of school districts No.1 and 2 of Peaine Township and a new building being erected about the size of the new St. James school, near Owen McCauley's place."

"The tug *Margaret McCann* has been steamed up this week for the purpose of pumping out the water which has been leaking into her this winter and requiring daily bailing, the ice pulling out the oakum caulking forward."

"Tom Barry who has been having charge of the company's railroad since its beginning left the Island Tuesday morn-

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ing for his home in Free Soil for an indefinite stay. Tom made many friends on the Island who regret his departure.”

“The roads at present are in very bad condition, narrow and high on account of the old rail fences left up and this making drifts with every storm. It is now getting dangerous to meet a team on the road for fear of trouble in turning out.”

“The contract for the extension of the King's Highway to the Head of the Island has been let to the following gentlemen: The first mile south of Hugh Boyle's is in charge of Dan P. Boyle; the next mile will be constructed by Dan D. Green; the remainder of the distance to Phil Malloy's place will be build by Raymond McDonald.”

“The Beaver island Lumber Co. was compelled to shut down their mill the 15<sup>th</sup> on account of the big snow storm which completely disabled their railroad. The company have spent a pile of money shoveling snow so far this winter in trying to keep their mill going and their hands supplied with work. The high banks of snow on both sides of the tracks made it impossible to clear it of the fresh supply from the last storm.”

February 25, 1904 Local News: “The Sentinel is able to state that the Beaver Island cable is a sure thing. This is by authority.” —Joyce Bartels

### February 18, 1904 Lost in Storm *Terrible Experience of a Man on the Lake Saturday Night*

“A report comes to the News office this morning from Harbor Spring from our regular correspondent at that place, bring the news of a case of terrible suffering.

Saturday afternoon, so the information goes, a man started to walk from Hog Island, one of the Beavers, to Cross Village 20 miles. A snow storm came on and becoming bewildered the man wandered about aimlessly, finally being found at 7-mile point Sunday in an almost frozen condition. The News called Cross Village by 'phone but nothing was known of the man's experience there. Owing to the intense cold of today, and the fact that 7-mile point cannot be reached by 'phone, the above could not be confirmed, neither could further information be secured.”

— Petosky News

“The man was Frank Sherman, of this place, who had been working at Hog Island, lumbering. He arrived here Monday, but says he came without much trouble with the aid of a compass.”

“A later account says: ‘Frank Sherman of Beaver Island is the man who was saved from a horrible death by freezing on the ice early Sunday morning. Charley Wright of Harbor Springs was on his way to his fish shanty Sunday morning

where he found Sherman wandering around in a bewildered condition, almost frozen.’”

“H. Ivan Swift who afterwards talked with Sherman gave the following correct account of the affair to our Harbor Springs reporter. 'What might be called a very narrow escape and was surely a very anxious experience is reported here by Frank Sherman of St. James. Mr. Sherman who is a cobbler on the Beavers started Saturday morning from Hog Island to go to Charlevoix to buy some leather. He began the journey afoot toward Cross Village, the nearest main land point, but finding the weather fair decided to walk straight across the lake to Charlevoix, a distance of 30 miles. Early in the evening the lone traveler having reached within five miles of his destination was overtaken by the blizzard which made outdoor life unendurable, even on land. The blinding and dense snow made a definite course impossible and the darkness rendered his pocket compass of little use.

He continued to walk, inclining towards the inner bay rather than the open lake, and hoped to strike the Petosky shore at some point. He traveled the entire night, having been on the lake for 24 hours without food or rest, and daylight found him on the north shore of the bay very much off his bearings.”



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## Charlevoix Prosecutor faces Challenge

Island residents have become familiar with Mary Beth Kur, partially through her availability to answer questions in the BIRHC/CCG dispute. Now she's up for reelection, and facing a stiff challenge from CMU-grad and former Assistant Prosecutor (from 1995 until 2002), John Jarema. In his seven years in that position he tried over 120 cases and had an 80% success rate.

Lately John has been an attorney in private practice, a job he took after being fired as Chief Assistant Prosecutor—which happened, he claims (on [votejarema.com](http://votejarema.com)), because he questioned the way the Prosecutor's office was being run. Angered by his treatment, he brought suit against his former boss and wound up accepting a \$50,000 judgement in his favor.

If elected, he promises to offer fewer plea bargains as a matter of course. He's particularly upset that the current prosecutor let a drunk driver with 20 previous felony convictions bargain for a sentence of less than five years after running down and killing Tanya Cords. Whereas the current prosecutor has personally tried only two cases in the past three years, he says, he promises to take a more hands-on approach. He also has ideas about how to reorganize the office to make it more effective.

Jarema's goals are "to be a full-time, in-court prosecutor who is fiscally responsible with the taxpayer's money." He said "we have an administrator (of an office in turmoil), not a prosecutor seeking justice." Jarema, whose family has resided in Charlevoix County since the early 1900s, looks forward to coming to the Island to meet the constituents. "Beaver Island is often overlooked but is an important part of Charlevoix County. I look forward to meeting the residents of the Island and sharing my goals."

When current prosecutor Mary Beth Kur was contacted, she had the following remarks: "Given what has gone on over the past two years since my opponent's dismissal from employment, it comes as no surprise to me that he now wants my job. I am very proud of my record as a prosecutor and a community leader. I stand by my record."

As to the many claims and criticisms leveled at her by her opponent, Kur said, "In the next six months, there will be plenty of time to talk about things. For now, I'm busy doing the job the people of Charlevoix County have elected me to do."

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## Twenty-year Islander Turns 88

Beatrice Bauman, mother of JoAnne Cashman, recently celebrated her 88<sup>th</sup> birthday, her 20<sup>th</sup> on Beaver. Growing up in Gross Pointe, she was an honor student who planned to go to college—until the Depression brought her father's income to an end, breaking up the family and forcing her to go to work as a secretary at Cadillac Motors.

Meeting architect Melvin Bauman, she fell in love and accepted his proposal. Their growing family moved to Grand Rapids so her husband could take the job of chief designer for Packaging Corporation of America; he also designed several subdivisions for independent developers. This rising star's career came to an unfortunate end when he died of a heart attack in 1961, forcing Bea to take a job as a personal secretary at Lear Siegler.

Happy birthday, Bea! Many happy Beaver Island returns!

## Kayaking for College Credit?

Ken Bruland of Inland Seas School of Kayaking will be leading a sea kayaking course next summer in conjunction with CMU. The two-week course will earn 3 hours of college credit. Anyone starting to think about what to do next summer who might be interested in this course should take a look at [www.inlandseaskayaking.com](http://www.inlandseaskayaking.com) for full details, or contact CMU at (989) 774-3173 or Ken Bruland at (231) 448-2221.

## A Note on the Weather

At the onset of January Islanders wondered if the serious snow would hold off long enough to challenge last year's mid-month arrival, but it was not to be. After a week of light snow and a heavy rain, the temperature dropped into occasional single digits (negative at night) and the open harbor began closing its mouth on the swans (which swam in circles in an ever-diminishing hole in the rapidly-forming ice.) Then the Grand Dump came at last, signaling the snowmobilers that the machines they'd been fine-tuning and polishing with such high anticipation could finally be taken out. Soon the woods and roads were criss-crossed with trails. Ice-fishing shanties appeared, first on Lake Geneserath and then on Fox, where an area was plowed for skating. Winter has arrived!



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**WATERFRONT COTTAGE FOR RENT:**

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



**HOUSE FOR LEASE:**

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



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



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

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



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**Real Estate, For Rent:**

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

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



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



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