

*The Founding and Floundering  
of the  
South Manitou Memorial Society<sup>1</sup>*

**INTRODUCTION**

What follows is a synopsis of the early history of the South Manitou Memorial Society. The information is based on documents collected by the organization's original Secretary/Treasurer and successor Secretaries over the fifteen years of its existence. Although this paper reveals incidents of incompetence, duplicity and wrongdoing on the part of those who founded the organization, criticism or discrediting is not its purpose.

Over the fifteen years of its life, the Society has not grown either in numbers or organizational sophistication. Its record of accomplishment is insubstantial. At present, it finds itself without purpose, lacking in direction, abandoned by those who formerly provided its imagination and vitality, and unable to recruit replacements for its aging membership.

Having been recently elected as the organization's Secretary, fifteen years worth of Secretarial records, consisting of two full "Banker's Boxes", fell into my care. That was the extent of my briefing by the outgoing Board. I began browsing these records to see what I could learn about the job's duties and responsibilities and how they had been handled in the past. It wasn't long before I realized the boxes contained answers that others apparently thought had been lost to the dust and the graves of departed members, and documents that contradicted certain generally held positions and opinions. I therefore decided to start at the beginning in each file and read every document, letter, memo, note, newspaper clipping, and scrap contained therein.

While this limited resource can't tell all the details of the organization's history, enough was discovered to reveal how and why the organization came to the place that it is at. The documentation in the Secretaries' archive, much of it consisting of letters exchanged between the original three founders, Fred Burdick, Glenn Furst and Johanna de Kok, presents a rather disconcerting picture of the organization's early history.

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<sup>1</sup> The South Manitou Memorial Society has become the Manitou Islands Memorial Society, a "friends" organization serving the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore.

## WHAT THE RECORD SHOWS

### The Founders and Their “Dreams”

The South Manitou Memorial Society arose from a confluence of the special interests of three founders; Frederick W Burdick, Glenn C Furst and Johanna M de Kok.

During the 1950's, **Fred Burdick** returned to the Island after a long absence, having lived there as a child. He, like others before him, had ambitions of developing what he thought was the Island's potential for tourism, and began building resort facilities. His efforts were never very successful, since he was never able to secure any significant financing or cooperation on the part of other absentee property owners. In 1983, his wife passed away and it was apparently her wish, or theirs, to be buried in the Island cemetery. By that time, the cemetery was evidently showing the ravages of several years' neglect. At the following annual “islanders reunion”, Fred proposed that the group finance a "Perpetual Fund" that would support the expense of cemetery maintenance, and announced that he was, in fact, starting the ball rolling with a contribution of \$1,000. No discussion was recorded indicating how this fund would be administered, who would be doing the maintenance work, or who would be receiving reimbursements for services rendered. As had his earlier initiative to develop a "Manitou Haven Resort", this proposal apparently won little or no support from previous Island residents and settler-descendants.

Meanwhile, **Glenn Furst**, son of a former lighthouse keeper who grew up on both North Manitou and South Manitou Islands, had been puttering around on the island since about 1972, attempting to locate and mark old graves and burial sites. An activity that began as a pastime evidently became an obsession, even to the extent of purchasing and placing headstones for unmarked graves at his own expense. Early in the summer of 1988 he volunteered in a Traverse City Record-Eagle feature ... *"I realized I'd been working for 15 years and nobody seemed interested in helping me ... I was all alone. I knelt at the foot of a gravesite and I asked for help. Right at that gravesite, the association got started."* ... referring to what he and his friend Fred Burdick would attempt to sell to the "North and South Manitou Island Reunion" as the "South Manitou Cemetery Association" a month after his epiphany.

**Johanna de Kok** joined these two as the third founder. Mrs. de Kok had no ancestral connection to the Islands, but had been a regular visitor for some twenty-six years, spending many of those years as a paying guest in Burdick's "resort". She eventually became an Island "interpreter" for the NPS, spending some fourteen years living on the Island in that capacity, and founding an "island museum" on her own initiative to "preserve the cultural history of South Manitou Island". At the time of the 1988 reunion, it was apparently clear to her that her

involuntary retirement from that activity was imminent, because of certain inescapable family obligations. In a letter written to her co-founders a year later, apparently around the time of her "retirement" from the NPS and island life, she revealed having dreamed over the years that her work would be continued by some formally constituted organization, and that this was her fundamental motive for becoming involved so intimately with their idea.

### **The Preemption of the Old Islands Reunion**

After the funeral of South Manitou settler-descendant Ernest Hutzler in 1970, certain relatives and former friends attending the observances in Boyne City talked about making such a get-together an annual event, meeting for the first time as a "reunion" at Empire on the 4th of July in 1971. Over the years, this event caught on, word-of-mouth enticing more and more people to participate each year, until by the mid-1980's the attendance sometimes topped 100 participants.

Originally formed by people from South Manitou, many had connections to the other island, and the annual event came to enjoy the participation of people from both islands. Accordingly, the name "North and South Manitou Islands Reunion" was adopted, although the reunion never had any formal organizational structure.

Although no attendance records predating the 1988 reunion have been found, it is assumed that the three SMMS founders were probably regular reunion participants. When thinking about creating an island-oriented organization that would be formally constituted and funded, the existing reunion group was no doubt seen as a means of easily "jump starting" the project.

While an early overture by Fred Burdick received no support, a proposal advocated at the 1988 reunion by these three acting together was evidently accepted as a more credible proposition. Glenn Furst, in particular, had a penchant for sentiment, and was probably able to sway many in the meeting to the idea of adopting this means of remaining permanently connected to "their island". What, if anything, was actually offered in exchange for the reunion group's support was not recorded.

The record of that meeting shows only that Glenn produced evidence to show that the former inhabitants of South Manitou owned the cemetery on that island. The group there assembled then provided "a vote of confidence" for the establishment of the organization being proposed, and voted the three founders as the new organization's first officers and Executive Board.

At that point, the "North and South Manitou Island Reunion" became, for many people, the "South Manitou Cemetery Association".

## **The Founding Blunder**

Early letters, title searches and so on suggest that the founders had the intention of acquiring title to the South Manitou Island Cemetery. However, the Township of Glen Arbor had donated the Cemetery to the Department of Interior on July 19, 1985. A copy of the Donation Deed is on file in SMMS records. Interestingly, this document also assures burial rights for certain persons, having been signed subject to ... "The right to burial of ... former South Manitou Island residents and their descendants and heirs to be buried in said cemetery if they so desire."

In a brief address at the general meeting of July 17, 1991, Ethel Stormer, Glenn Furst's sister, affirmed that in 1988 the founders were unaware that the government had already acquired title to the cemetery. Continuing with her comments, she asserted that an attorney had advised Glenn that setting up a "perpetual care" organization would be legally complex and beyond the financial capabilities of the reunion group. That became the official explanation as to why the name was quickly changed to "South Manitou Memorial Society", and why the founders began to emphasize Mrs de Kok's agenda ... preserving knowledge of the island's history and cultural traditions. The truth was that legally chartered cemetery associations necessarily encompass properties to which the organization holds full title and all rights. Upon learning that the Park now owned the cemetery, two facts became immediately evident. First, it was clear that the prospect of forming a "cemetery association" was forever out of the question. Second, that the "perpetual care" fund maintained for the benefit of the South Manitou Island Cemetery would necessarily accrue to the benefit of the Park, with disbursements from such designated funds always being subject to the Park's review and approval.

After the legal counseling mentioned by Ms. Stormer, the founders were no doubt well aware that care of the cemetery was now the responsibility of the Park Service, and that no outside agency would have any standing whatsoever with regard to its management or maintenance. The group continued, nevertheless, to solicit and receive donations and gifts designated for those purposes. Moreover, they filed Articles of Incorporation claiming that purpose, and won an IRS exemption as a nonprofit "Cemetery Association" ... a category restricted to the perpetual care and maintenance of cemeteries. Perhaps they felt their motives and intentions were worthy and justifiable as a means of remaining connected to the island. Perhaps this seemed like a more comfortable alternative than having to admit at the next reunion that they had been mistaken about who owned the cemetery, a matter that was central to their proposition. In addition, at issue would be the matter of canceling filings already made, and the return gifts and donations already received. Whatever their motives and intentions, this can only be viewed at the beginning of a pattern of chicanery and subterfuge.

The record would seem to suggest that many became aware of the "inconsistencies". Upon learning that the cemetery was actually a part of the National Park, meeting attendees voiced objections about spending the Society's money to do what the park was obligated to do anyway, and especially when the Society held no rights in the matter. Over the next few years, attendance at the annual SMMS meetings, as reported in minutes, dwindled, although support of the reunion itself appears to have remained relatively constant.

### “How’s Your Fence?”

By 1989, Fred Burdick, having remarried and now residing permanently in Florida, had evidently already decided to take a back seat, leaving the Society primarily in the hands of Glenn Furst and Johanna de Kok. His last major contribution to the affairs of the Society was an insistence on constructing a wood fence at the cemetery. This was a Society-funded project preliminarily approved by the Park, the Society being entrusted with the responsibility of polling its members to discover exactly what kind of fence was originally employed, so that a historically authentic replica could be installed. Fred insisted that it had been a wood fence, and provided a somewhat detailed sketch to corroborate his assertions. There's no record that anyone else was able to substantiate his "evidence", most recalling that the old fence was a "woven wire" type commonly seen during the period, being sold by local "commission agents" on a mail order basis. An advertisement from the period<sup>2</sup> offered ...

"How's your fence? We have the Cheapest and best woven wire fencing. Wire rope selvage. McMullen's Farm Fencing. 50 inches high at 50 cents per rod. Lawn, garden. Poultry and stock fencing all sizes and widths. Gates to match. Prices low. Sold by dealers. Freight paid. Send for circulars. The McMullen Woven Wire Fence Co., Chicago Ill, **P.S. all steel Lawn and Cemeteru fences!**"

The Park service was extremely dubious, and reluctant to permit the erection of the wood fence shown in Fred's sketch. For his part, Glenn Furst remembered finding the gate for the old fence buried in the undergrowth at the cemetery, and had removed the nameplate, put it in his pocket, and thought that it was probably still somewhere in his garage at Ludington. In a private note written to Johanna de Kok on June 4, 1990 he confidentially shared *"Below is a little description of the name plate I removed from the original gate. The one I found in*

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<sup>2</sup> Lawrence County Press - February 4, 1892 (Lawrence County, MS)

*the grass in front of the Cemetery...*" Below those words he drew a sketch of a nameplate showing ...

Patented Aug 6, 1889  
McMullen Woven Wire Fence Co.  
Chicago, Ill

Nonetheless, the wood fence Fred was insisting on was installed that September. Whether the Park has ever become aware of this intentional deception is not reflected in the Society's records.

### **Fool Me Once ... the First “Understanding” with the Park**

In a letter written August 27, 1984, the Park's Land Acquisition Officer indicated that the Park originally acquired title to the cemetery with the idea that funds for its upkeep and maintenance would become available through a "perpetual trust fund" that a "resident of South Manitou Island" was supposedly setting up. This would appear to be the result of an understanding between Fred Burdick and Park Superintendent Richard Peterson, who apparently enjoyed an amicable relationship. When no such trust fund ever materialized, and after givers of gifts and contributions objected to diverting any money to the National Park Service, the Park was left "holding the bag".

This “understanding” might well have been the reason why Fred Burdick would have been reluctant to stop the SMMS project when the others learned of the Park’s ownership of the cemetery. Under the circumstances, it is difficult to believe that he had not already known that the Park had secured title to the property, and was therefore being somewhat less than perfectly forthright with his co-founders. One could probably quite safely assume that the founding of the Society was, for him, a way to make good on his side of the above deal. When the group proved reluctant to participate in any such arrangement with the Park, he opted for a much lower profile in the organization, being the first of the original officers to give up his position.

This probably marked the beginning of the Park’s ill feelings towards the Society, Park management having reason to feel that the Society could not be trusted to make good on collaborative agreements.

### **“Lighthouse Restoration” - Compounding the Error**

In April of 1991, Society member Jack Phillips met a tragic and untimely death while recreating alone near the Islands. On the 30th of that month, his widow sent a check for \$810 to Glenn Furst, a sum apparently given by individuals as memorials "in lieu of flowers" at her husband's funeral.

In a front page piece in the April 1991 newsletter, Glenn had written several paragraphs expounding upon the need to build the Society's bank account, ending with a conjecture about restoring a room in the South Manitou Lighthouse. He fantasized, *"I can see a shiny, brass plate with the words: THIS ROOM REFURBISHED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH MANITOU MEMORIAL SOCIETY"*. Responding to that appeal, Connie Phillips inappropriately designated for that purpose the undesignated funds that had been given by others, suggesting that the plaque specifically memorialize her late husband. Glenn responded with a letter indicating the creation of a "Jack Phillips Memorial Fund", to which the Society would add \$190 to bring its initial amount to an even \$1,000.00.

At that point, the Society began soliciting additional contributions and gifts for that new fund, and for its express purposes. In 1993 the "Shirley (Grosvenor) Swartz Fund", a sum comprised of several small memorial gifts totaling about \$590, was merged into the "Lighthouse Fund" at the families request ... as designated in a note on a scrap of paper received from daughter Tracy (Swartz) Scott ... bringing its total to almost \$2000.

In fact, the restoration of any part of the lighthouse, then also property of the U.S. Government, was never within the Society's prerogatives or financial capabilities, as gently indicated in a letter from the Assistant Park Superintendent to Glenn Furst in August 1991, written in response to a letter Glenn had written to Park Superintendent Ivan Miller in July announcing the creation of the fund. Moreover, the placing of a plaque memorializing any individual was clearly in violation of NPS rules.

Rather than gently explaining these facts to the families involved, the Society again acted inappropriately ... establishing "designated funds" that could never be used and wrongfully seeking additional donations for promises it would never be able to honor.

A few years later, probably as a "reality check", the Park Service informed the Society that the lighthouse restoration project would involve a total approaching \$1.5-million, and that the Society was welcome to donate money if it wished. Again, at annual meetings and in letters, members, including even Glenn's sister Ethel, objected to spending SMMS money on Park projects, and specifically on the lighthouse. So this became yet another episode contributing to the South Manitou Memorial Society's image as a group likely to concoct big, but half-baked ideas that it would never actually carry out.

## The Dreams Fade ...

The discussion was lively at the annual meeting of the Society in 1992. There was talk of ambitious plans and exciting possibilities, both as social activities for the members and island-related work projects. Unfortunately, the Society's assets amounted to only about \$9,000 ... \$5,000 of that representing the "Perpetual Fund" ... hardly enough to support even its small routine expenses.

Although evidently not mentioned at the meeting, on that same day Secretary Joanna Smith was meeting with brokers in the offices of Merrill Lynch in downtown Grand Rapids to sign a document receiving an anonymous contribution. The gift involved securities valued at \$10,000, with the donor stipulating that its purpose was to support the perpetual fund through the direct deposit of any dividends into the Society's account at the Empire National Bank.

This generous contribution more than doubled the Society's assets, although no mention of it was made during the meeting the following year, and it was not included in the Treasurer's report given at that meeting. In fact, the annual meeting in 1993 was a disappointment in more ways than that.

In a letter to President Paul Rocheleau in December of 1993, Glenn Furst revealed that he was the anonymous donor of the \$10,000 fund, asserting "*At the time the fund was donated, for various reasons the family deemed it best to call it an anonymous donation. Secrecy is no longer necessary.*" A paragraph earlier, he pointedly explained that the founders had originally agreed "... *it would not be wise to require members to renew their membership each year, but to rely on new memberships to support these funds until a perpetual fund of at least \$10,000 or more in a Certificate of Deposit was in place.*" Although not directly enunciated in what he wrote, the inference would seem to be that his intention in making the anonymous contribution was to cross that \$10,000 threshold.

Perhaps he had concluded that it was time for those participating so willingly in the debate and voting to begin paying for the privilege of thwarting his long-held aspirations. His embittered feelings were plain as he wrote about his disgust with what went on in the annual meeting of 1993.

Park Administrative Officer and thirty-year NPS veteran Ray Kimpel had been invited to speak about a "Memorandum of Agreement" concerning the Society's role in the preservation and maintenance of cultural resources within the National Lakeshore. The need for such a document had arisen as a result of the letter to the Park announcing the "Lighthouse Restoration Fund" two years earlier. Mr Kimpel challenged the membership to adopt a more realistic attitude. He explained that significant Park projects cost a lot of money and involved a lot of work ... asserting that the Society wasn't up to such tasks and suggesting that anyone who felt they were might organize as a "Friends of the Park"<sup>3</sup> group. In

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<sup>3</sup> *The Friends of Sleeping Bear Dunes Inc.* was founded the following year.

his view, the only other alternative for the Society was to continue with the piddling little details the Society had involved itself in up to that point, providing a little volunteer labor now and then, and perhaps some minor funding for materials and supplies.

After a little “discussion” about this, the membership, on motion and by unanimous vote, chose the lesser alternative. At that point, Glenn Furst walked out. In his letter he shares *“When I walked out of our last meeting, having heard the comments of the National Park personnel and then hearing the voices of the members voting to take a low profile on further projects on the island, I was crestfallen. I had had such great dreams for the Society. Perhaps these dreams were much too great and initiated without enough research.”*

Thus ended the group’s flirtation with the preservationist role. Clearly, the South Manitou Memorial Society would not be participating in any significant way as far as the Island’s future was concerned, nor would the group be in a position to contribute much towards preserving its past.

### **... But the Beat Goes On!**

In spite of the membership’s vote, the Society’s Board of Directors continued to pursue a “MOA” (Memorandum of Agreement) during the next several years, until the project was finally pronounced dead by President Don Morris at the annual meeting of 1999, in interpreting a letter received from Park Superintendent Ivan Miller. In addressing the possibility of a “partnering” agreement, Mr. Miller was critical of the Society’s past record of achievement, meager funding and lack of relevant skills. At that meeting, Don asked for a discussion and decision on the part of the membership as to their future directions, but the group failed to respond. The discussion was diverted to other less significant matters and never did return to the point.

In a letter from Traverse City attorney Leroy Kramer III to then-President Brian Hazlett, the Society had been advised in May of 1994 that such an agreement with the National Park Service was not a realistic possibility without corporate liability insurance. The Park, as a matter of policy, would require indemnification by the Society under such an agreement. He explained *“This language requires the Society, in addition to being responsible for its own acts and omissions giving rise to property damage and the injury or death of any person, also (to) pay back the U.S. Government for any such loss which it or anyone else may cause ... I suspect that the treasury of the Society could not survive even a modest personal injury judgement ...”*

There is nothing in the record to indicate that the Board of Directors ever so much as discussed this prerequisite, or sought quotes for such coverage<sup>4</sup>. To continue negotiations with the Park Service towards a “Memorandum of Agreement” or partnering arrangement under those circumstances seems bizarre, to say the least ... whether just the result of incompetent bumbling or a deliberate attempt to impress Park management with the Society’s “serious intentions”.

Whatever the case, the Society was yet again engaged in a project that had already been proven unlikely to ever succeed and, in this case, one that had already been formally disavowed and disapproved by its own membership.

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<sup>4</sup> The NPS coverage requirement is \$300,000. A policy providing general liability coverage up to \$1-million was recently quoted by Auto-Owners Insurance Company through the Bonek Agency in Suttons Bay. Annual cost: \$276.

## CONCLUSIONS

Conversations with certain long-time members suggest there is more such history, including even episodes of risqué behavior occurring within the context of joint ventures with the Lakeshore and thereby scandalizing Park personnel. However, this exhausts what can be gleaned from the documented evidence contained in the Secretaries' archives.

The time has clearly come to recognize that the history of the Society is in large part a story about some elderly people who wanted so badly to accomplish their personal "dreams" that they were willing to do whatever it took to make them come true ... that well-intentioned, but misguided bumbling and incompetence has gotten the group nowhere in the fifteen years since its inception.

At this point, the Society has two choices. One is to accept the past for what it was, relegate that experience to history, and move on to build an organization of some significance that operates in a more ethical and businesslike manner. The second option is to proceed with the orderly dissolution of the South Manitou Memorial Society Inc. and properly dispose of its assets.

As a result of this document, continuing to solicit and receive contributions and gifts under the guise of their being tax deductible, and continuing to represent that such money will be used for things the Society cannot legally or realistically hope to accomplish, is intentionally fraudulent and deceptive. Willingly doing so exposes the Directors, present and past, to criminal charges as well as civil proceedings. However unlikely and inappropriate that might seem, Directors of nonprofit corporations have duties and responsibilities under the law, even Directors of small "insubstantial" organizations like the South Manitou Memorial Society. Submission of this document to the Michigan Attorney General would doubtless result in an "show cause" hearing aimed at the immediate involuntary dissolution of the corporation. Continuing with "business as usual" is therefore not an option.

Rebuilding the Society is not a realistic goal, since it was never a strong and successful entity. It seems probable that there are very few among what the Society considers its "membership" who conscientiously support the organization to the extent of making any personal commitment to it. For those few who do, continuing would entail many changes that might be difficult to accept.

First among these is the reality that the Park is now here, and here to stay. The National Park Service has all the prerogatives, and organizations like ours can only participate effectively at their pleasure. If we can eventually establish an agenda that the Park is willing to support, and build a record of accomplishment

that shows we can be reliable and trustworthy as a partner, the Society might have a future as an advocacy for the Islands.

Second, the missions traditionally espoused by the Society have been taken over by other groups that formed in the void created by our ineffectiveness. *Friends of Sleeping Bear Dunes* provides expertise, volunteer labor and financial support for various projects and activities initiated by the Park. *Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear* was founded<sup>5</sup> with a mission of preserving designated historic and cultural assets in the Park, which includes island cemeteries. Opportunities to be of service in these areas no longer exist, except as a non-competitive adjunct to these successful organizations.

Interpretation and education regarding the human history and cultural traditions of the Islands are areas still wanting for attention, and which involve tasks and funding within the Society's capabilities. The Society can build a new mission agenda aimed at helping the Park fulfill this part of its Strategic Plan<sup>6</sup>.

For example, the Society might sponsor a small corps of young volunteers to serve on South Manitou as hosts in the welcome center and museum, guides in the village area and at the lighthouse complex, to escort walking tours, and so on. Mature college-age volunteers would be recruited for this service, perhaps individuals pursuing a career in park or hospitality management, or having some special connection to or interest in the islands. SMMS would support the living expenses of these volunteers and pay a small stipend to compensate for lost wages, perhaps eliciting the cooperation of corporate employers to provide leaves of absence from summer jobs and to assist in sponsoring this public service activity involving participating employees.

The possibility of raising funds to support the expense of portable interpretive displays and other educational materials for use by Park personnel when making presentations in schools and other organizations has also been discussed, and is within the organization's scope of interests and financial capabilities.

As a more successful and vibrant entity, the Society might also find its fund raising capabilities greatly enhanced, and could realistically undertake projects in cooperation with one of the other organizations, such as re-lighting the South Manitou Island Lighthouse.

Visitation on the Islands is currently light<sup>7</sup>, quite possibly because of the expense and inconvenience involved. The Society could help in fulfilling certain goals cited in the Park's Strategic Plan, and needs listed in a recent Federal Highway Administration/Federal Transit Administration Field Report<sup>8</sup>, by

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<sup>5</sup> Established in 1998 for the purpose of preserving historic properties designated for demolition by the Park.

<sup>6</sup> *Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore Strategic Plan, 2001-2005*, published April 2000.

<sup>7</sup> Visitors to both islands combined constitutes less than 0.5% of annual Park visitation.

<sup>8</sup> See <http://www.fta.dot.gov/library/policy/fedland/fieldreports/NPS/Midwest/Sleepingd.pdf>

undertaking to secure grants aimed at subsidizing various aspects of this activity, thereby making the islands more accessible, especially to vacationing families with children.

These are meaningful activities, and exciting possibilities. However, because of past experiences with SMMS, the Park might well be reluctant to encourage such agendas. A demonstration program of some kind might therefore be appropriate as a means of verifying whether or not the Society actually has any serious intention of following through with such programs, and the capability of doing so.

The Board of Directors must now decide which of the above two options should be recommended to the general membership.

If the consensus is that the organization should continue, the Society will need a team of Directors who are (1) committed to building a meaningful and well managed organization, (2) able to coherently define a realistic mission, and (3) willing to contribute their time and talent fully and freely towards the accomplishment of a new agenda. While the enthusiastic support of the existing general membership would do much to assure the success of a new agenda, the Board has the authority to assume a leadership posture and embark upon such an initiative immediately.

The alternative, a decision to recommend the dissolution of the corporation and the disbanding of the Society, would recognize the reality that the organization currently has no significant role in the Park and has little volunteer or financial support from what it considers its membership. Those who wish to carry on the *North & South Manitou Islands Reunion* tradition can continue to meet at Empire each summer, as they did for some eighteen years prior to the appearance of SMMS. Voluntary dissolution requires a vote of the general membership.

The Board of Directors would be well advised to take one decision or the other before the next annual meeting in July 2004.

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