

Manitou County

SOUTH MANITOU.

Herald Correspondence.

The schooner John C. Bauer, first vessel of the season, arrived here May 4th, for wood. Cleared May 6th for Milwaukee, with 120 cords of sawed wood; price paid, \$2.90 per cord.

Farming has commenced and every man is minding his own business.

First disaster of the season: A small schooner named Clara, from Manistee and bound for Manitowoc, Wis., came to our harbor, May 7th, dragged anchor and went ashore, loaded with shingles. The light keeper and assistant went to help and finally got her off and when under way, the vessel being unable to make to windward went on the beach again worse than ever. The seas broke over her badly, washing all her deck load off. She is now full of water and somewhat hurt. Shingles for sale cheap.

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We are still among the living, though it looked rather dubious at one time, for we had begun to think that we should be compelled to live two years on one year's supply of provisions. The snow has nearly all disappeared except an occasional bank or drift where it was ten or twelve feet deep last winter. Since the snow has gone the lower portions of the island have been nearly inundated, which makes it a very difficult matter to visit our neighbors, as the surface of the ground is covered with water, and in moving from house to house one has to resort to one of several alternatives, either to crawl around on logs and barbed wire fences, or by gondolas. But that which seems most convenient and which is used most extensively, is that adopted by the Swiss people in transporting travelers over the Alps, i. e., one is armed with a water tight pair of rubber boots, and the others are ferried over by mounting his back. Never, in the recollection of the oldest settler of the island, has the water been so high as this spring. There is a small lake in the center of the island which has somewhat overflowed its banks, and is abounding in fish of various kinds. Pickerel in particular. The boys have great sport going up in the woods (small undergrowth) surrounding the lake, to shoot fish which come up to bask in the warm sun. Master Willie Armstrong shot a very fine pickerel the other day that made a meal for their entire family which is not a very small one either.

Quite a quantity of maple syrup has been made here this spring, and quite a quantity of warm syrup and sugar has been eaten, too. Two of us young "natives" were at the house of Joseph Haas the other day and partook freely of the sweet stuff.

The keeper, sec., ass't, and myself made a visit to what is known as the Big Bluff. It is a high promontory on the north side of the island, rising abruptly to the height of 400 feet above the water, and from the summit of which we could see distinctly the islands at the entrance of Green bay on the Wisconsin shore, with the naked eye, and by the aid of a glass we could see them very plainly.

Navigation has opened.

Martin Knudson has opened the light house and it is in excellent condition.

The first vessel that passed through the channel or passage between the island and main land, was the John C. Bauer of Milwaukee. She is now loading with wood in South Manitou harbor.

The steamer Lou A. Cummings

made a short and pleasant call at the Manitou harbor May 5th, on her way to Traverse City where she will run on the bay for the season of 1885. She ran on the route from Traverse City to Frankfort last season, and made regular calls at this point. The people here seem much grieved that she is not to run here this season. She is a handy little boat, and the captain, Mr. Robertson, is an excellent man and has made many trips here, and the best wishes of the people go with him on his new route.

School closed here April 27th, after a term of five months, and we all think we know as much now as before school begun. There is talk of a summer school. There should be,

by all means, for there is excellent timber to work in. The scholars are all very diligent and punctual in their attendance. Master Alfred Armstrong attended most regularly, having been there 96 days out of 98. The average attendance by 20 scholars was 17.8. We have not a very handsome school house but through the efforts of the young ladies in attendance it was made very neat and attractive, and they have the thanks of the teacher though they were somewhat timid about receiving them.

Grand Traverse Herald
May 21, 1885

Manitou County South Manitou

Herald Correspondence

The schooner John C. Bauer, first vessel of the season, arrived here May 4th for wood. Cleared May 6th for Milwaukee, with 120 cords of sawed wood; price paid, \$1.20 per cord.

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