

Grand Traverse Herald
Mar. 1886

SOUTH MANITOU

Herald Correspondence

At the present writing, Feb. 27, the lake is frozen over, but a light wind would crush the ice. The mercury has not been lower than 5 below this far this winter here.

Fishing is a great industry about the islands of Manitou, Fox and Beavers, in the summer, both by pound net and gill net. Fishing tugs daily run to the islands from as far up the lake as Frankfort, Manistee, Ludington and St. Joseph.

There is not one-tenth part of the wood trade here at the present time that there was in years past. This was once one of the chief wooding points on the lakes; but since steam boats have begun burning coal, there is but little call here for steam boat wood. Still, considerable market wood is shipped here, yet.

Farming is carried on quite successfully here, and we have some very thorough farmers, mostly of German descent. Most of the farm produce is marketed in Milwaukee by means of a little hooker owned by Fritz Patsho and Henry Fredrickson, of North Manitou, who own a large tract of timbered land, and who are said to be getting rich from their economy and industry in the wood business.

The old adage is "Where there is no law there is no crime." But since the township organization of the island was perfected there has been but a few weeks passed that has not witnessed a law suit at the office of Martin Knudsen, justice of the peace. Old crimes committed before organization, and new ones committed since, have been raked up and overhauled, until but little is left of even the justice himself, though he seems equal to the emergency in each case.

Owing to the inclement weather and the difficulty in communicating with the main land, as the lake has not yet been frozen over between, I cannot reach you with communications as often as I would were it otherwise. And as our community is small, our notes of interest are necessarily small in proportion. Winter here being the quietest season of the year, as there is no lumbering or traffic of any kind going on, every one takes his ease. Still some are engaged in cutting and hauling cordwood, which is sold in summer season.

On the evening of Feb. 18th, a goodly number of the young people of this place assembled by request at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Nelse Kundsens, to commemorate the event of the 25th year of Mr. Kundsens's birth. The evening was spent enjoyably, and all retired to their homes, happy in the thought of having been there. On the evening of the following Wednesday, Feb. 24, the young people assembled by request at the U. S. lighthouse to commemorate a similar event, though the special one being the wife of Martin Knowlson. All was enjoyment there, and all went to their homes as on the previous occasion. But, Oh, how it rained!

(transcript)