

P.O. Box 177 Empire, Michigan 49630 1995/1996, Vol.6, No.3

November 1995

DEAR ISLAND FRIENDS!!

MEMORIES OF MARINERS PAST - A NOTE FROM THE BOARD

The Lighthouse (Longfellow)

The rocky ledge runs far into the sea, And on its lofty top, some miles away, The Lighthouse lifts its massive masonry, A pillar of fire by night, of cloud by day.

The mariner remembers when a child, On his first voyage, he saw it fade and sink; And when, returning from adventures wild, He saw it rise again o'er ocean's brink.

Steadfast, serene, immovable, the same Year after year, through all the silent night Burns on forevermore that quenchless flame, Shines on that inextinguishable light! ... and so we shall.

A long time ago, hardy German, English, Irish, and other European souls decided that the Manitous were the place to seek their fortune. They worked and played hard, courted, married, had children; they danced, laughed, wept; they rejoiced and mourned, and while doing so created a most unique community. The ships came with goods for sale or trade and loaded up with produce and wood. The sailors and lifesaving service crews teased the little sandhill savages, and in trying to keep them out of the way taught them games which are still played today.

Those of you receiving this newsletter have all expressed an appreciation for the uncommon beauty of South Manitou Island, and many are committed to passing on its history. You also need to know that in the present national legislature there is a concerted effort to significantly reduce the budget of the National Park Service yet again.

President Paul Rocheleau I was born and raised in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan. I attended school at Delta College, Central Michigan University and the National Fire Academy.

Vice-President Margaret Kelly Braden As I was growing up, my mother, Ruth Burdick Kelly, would tell me and my siblings about the chickens, the general store, the dances, the lighthouse, the schoolhouse, etc.

My grandmother was Ida Beck, daughter of Theodore Beck. Theodore's farm is located on the south end of the island. I've enjoyed the panoramic view from the front yard of the homestead.

In 1989, I began attending the annual reunion on the last Saturday in July. There I met childhood friends of my mother's (Ethel Stormer, Glen Furst, and George Hutzler among others), and recognized her and her brothers and

sisters in wonderfully candid photographs saved by other families. Too, the pictures that I shared seemed to bring joy to some and historical information to others.

I have just recently resurrected my interest in the Island and was part of the great team of fence builders that erected the cemetery fence this summer.

My professional background includes studies in physical sciences, geological research and six years with the Michigan Department of Health Laboratories.

I am very pleased to be the new SMMS Treasurer. I first visited the Island 15 years ago with a friend of mine.

I see my role on the Memorial Society's Board as a representative of the families and their interests to the National Park Department and to our elected officials in Washington, D.C., to mandate their places on the island.

I'm 38, married 7 years, have 2 stepsons, and 3 wonderful granddaughters. I also have a nephew, Mathew who spends many weekends with me.

Secretary Patricia Siegrist Thank you for the vote of confidence in electing me to the position of Secretary of the Memorial Society.

I am looking forward to being more involved in the SMMS and want to thank my predecessor, Zella, for her hard work in establishing and maintaining the different CD's and accounts.

I have worked for the Michigan Department of Treasury for eighteen years. I feel that my experience in dealing with the public regarding tax question research, daily correspondence with them, and keeping records will be an asset to the Society.

Kim Mann reported the purposed installation of a Photovoltaic Array on North Manitou Island which deals with solar energy.

North Manitou Island Deer Hunt began October 1st and runs through November 9th. The bow hunters took 4 deer during the first week of the hunt.

Minutes of the meeting of July 30, 1994, were read by the Secretary, Sandra M. Black. Motion was made by Fred Burdick to accept the minutes as read.

Paul Rocheleau opened the discussion regarding the Memorandum of Agreement with the National Park Service. Paul has reviewed the Agreement and sent his comments back to the NPS.

Special thanks to our new friends from the Muskegon Hiking Club for their help in constructing the cemetery fence and clearing brush.

Paul Rocheleau made a motion to leave the SMMS name as it is with an appeal to all NMI members and individuals to support the SMI Society.

Kim Mann also brought the Society up-to-date on the Historic Landscape Research Project. A series of notebooks should be completed by September with recommendations as to what direction they are going.

Margaret Braden also reported the National Park Service is interested in restoring the schoolhouse on SMI and the assistance that the SMMS can provide.

Meeting Adjourned. Respectfully submitted, Sandra M. Black Secretary

Margaret Braden showed the new SMMS T-shirts which were designed by Judy Fogle and are for sale to increase the visibility of the SMMS and boost membership.

"I REMEMBER ..." Once, when my Grandmother Florence Haas was cooking on the (Ann Arbor No.4 CarFerry), she would, of course, be around the Commissary a lot and hear things. She began to learn that the Marine Superintendent was making deals and taking kickbacks on purchases in Frankfort for the boats.

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by Theron Haas Ludington, Michigan

Paul Rocheleau made a motion to leave the SMMS name as it is with an appeal to all NMI members and individuals to support the SMI Society.

Officers elected were: Paul Rocheleau, President Margaret Braden, Vice-President

SOUTH MANITOU ISLAND SCHOOL DAYS REMEMBERED

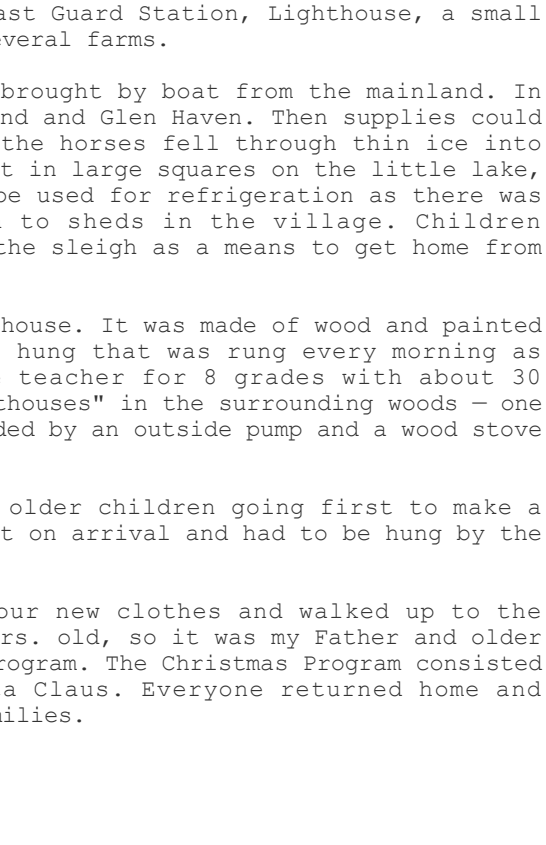
The Memorial Society has begun preliminary plans to assist the National Park Service with the restoration and re-furnishing of the Island Schoolhouse. We have begun working with Kim Mann, Historical Architect, to collect information about the schoolhouse.



Below are some questions to get your mind wandering back. Please detail your memories and experiences as you remember them. You need not have attended school on the island to assist us with this project.

- What year/s did you attend school on the island? What was/were your teachers names? Who was your favorite teacher and why? Names as many classmates as you can. Tell some amusing stories about your classmates. Did you walk to school? From where? How far? With whom? What was your route? How were the desks arranged in the room? How many in a row? Was there a coat-room? Where was it? What else was in the coat-room? Were the outhouses inside or out? Where at outdoors? Where do you remember the woodstove being located? Do you remember what kind it was? Where were the blackboards? What else was on the walls? Pictures? Where was the teachers desk? What did it look like? Did the teacher teach at her desk? What other items of furniture were in the room? What were they used for? Describe the school grounds? Where did you play? What games did you play? What other outside activities did you participate in? What school field trips or special events did you participate in? Do you have a Christmas pageant? What was it like? What books/stories do you remember reading? What projects did you work on? Did you ever skip school? Why? What did you do that day? Did your teacher teach music to your class? If so, what did you sing? What other subjects do you remember her teaching you? What were your favorites? What discipline measures did the teacher use? Did you ever have to sit in the corner? What did you sit in the corner for? Any additional memories? Please detail them.

Please give your name and address: Do you have pictures of the schoolhouse, inside or out, or class photos that you would be willing to share with the Memorial Society? Do you have furnishings from the schoolhouse? Please consider placing them on exhibit in the restored building. They will remain your property.



Thanks for your valuable assistance with this project!!! Now, get busy and "put your nose to the grindstone"!!!

*Send to SMMS, P.O. Box 177 Empire, Michigan 49630.

"I REMEMBER ..." Clarabell (Thompson) Mack recalls Christmas on South Manitou Island for her great grand-daughter, Taryn: Dear Taryn You wrote and asked how we celebrated Christmas when I was a little girl and this is how it was: As a child, and until I was 13 years old, I lived on South Manitou Island, which lies in Lake Michigan about 8 miles from Glen Haven. The size of our island was 3 miles by 5 miles, consisting of a Coast Guard Station, Lighthouse, a small village with a Post Office and store, and several farms. All groceries and supplies had to be brought by boat from the mainland. In the winter the water froze between the island and Glen Haven. Then supplies could be brought by horse and sleigh. Sometimes the horses fell through thin ice into the water and had to be rescued. Ice was cut in large squares on the little lake, which was in the middle of the island, to be used for refrigeration as there was no electricity. It was hauled by sleigh to sheds in the village. Children sometimes caught a ride on the runners of the sleigh as a means to get home from school. We had a one-room plus coatroom schoolhouse. It was made of wood and painted white. It had a small beifu where a bell hung that was rung every morning as school was about to begin. There was one teacher for 8 grades with about 30 students in all. The bathrooms were two "outhouses" in the surrounding woods - one for girls and one for boys. Water was provided by an outside pump and a wood stove provided heat. Each child walked to school with the older children going first to make a path in the snow. Clothes were sometimes wet on arrival and had to be hung by the stove to dry. On Christmas Eve we got dressed in our new clothes and walked up to the school house. My Mother died when I was 2 yrs. old, so it was my Father and older sister who got me ready for the Christmas Program. The Christmas Program consisted of plays, carols and the arrival of Santa Claus. Everyone returned home and celebrated the birth of Jesus with their families. Love, Great-Grandma Mack P.S. I always received a new doll for Christmas.

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SOUTH MANITOU MEMORIAL SOCIETY P.O. Box 177 Empire, Michigan 49630

Membership Application: Name: Date: Address: City/State/Zip: Donation: \$100.00 \$50.00 \$25.00 \$10.00 OTHER

The SMMS is a non-profit organization. Contributions are tax-deductable to the extent allowed by law.