

P.O. Box 177
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GREETINGS FRIENDS!!



Memories of Our Mom, Leota Violet Goeman

by Cindy Heisler and Bill Goeman

Mom was born in the lighthouse on North Manitou a bit earlier than expected on her own mother's birthday with her sister Ethel, who was 10 days shy of 14, having to learn how to be midwife very quickly. Ethel was her "Ana Mama". She was "Ota" or "Eota" to her brothers. Her health, more than the other 5 children, seemed to have been compromised by the lack of a milk cow and some other nutrients. Aunt Ethel and she both talked of her serious childhood illnesses that never could take her, but almost did. Scarlet fever left scarring on her heart as it had on her mother's. Despite those problems, she kept up with all her brothers and helped her mother, whom she cherished. Her mother died as they washed dishes together at Grand Traverse Light, when Mom was 23 and Grandma was 58, It was hard for her to even see pictures of the house. It may have been part of how she gave herself permission not to keep up the good fight on a day we could not be with her before evening. She did wait until after our daughter's graduation.

Though she moved to the Chicago area when she married our Dad, she carried the islands with her and how one loves people the way she learned to on the islands. She could remember anyone she ever knew from her days there growing up. She and Dad ended up owning their 2 homes in very small communities, that were almost island-like in their isolation created by highways and businesses. In these small communities their contributions were important. They were good friends and very caring. It is really no surprise that one of us is a social worker and the other works with people with disabilities. We were taught to care and love people. Mom continued, her

ministry to others even after she broke her back just before Dad died. As long as she had a phone, she would be in touch with her siblings and her church family. Her mind was sharp to the end. Five days before her death, she was concerned her granddaughter's boyfriend had a gift from her for graduation.

She enjoyed her one trip back to the island with the 2 Aunt Ethels, Uncle Glenn, Gene and our family in 1960. She climbed the tower and stayed in her mother's home. She listened for the waves to hit the shore, her favorite sound. We never went to the beach in Chicago since the sand was too dirty to suit her and too crowded. Every summer, we went to Northport, stopping along the way and sometimes getting to Charlevoix. She was so pleased when the reunion became the Memorial Society and cared so much for its work. She was so pleased to be able to come in 1998. We honor her by continuing its work.

Editor's Note: Leota Violet Hutzler Goeman, died May 9, 2000. Her daughter, Cynthia Heisler informed me that she died of a sudden heart attack after 13 months of being extremely ill. Her family informed me that anyone wishing to make a donation to the South Manitou Memorial Society in her memory, would bring great honor to Leota. Her gentle sweet spirit will be greatly missed.

News from Our President

In earlier messages I forecast that an increasing amount of the activities of the Society would revolve around preserving buildings on South Manitou Island. You will note that three of the articles in this issue relate to this change. They are the painting of the schoolhouse and the work at the Theodore Beck and August Beck Farms. This work is not without frustrations. As I have told some of you, the lack of a hardware store on South Manitou Island requires us to carry everything with us because if something is missing, you have to do the work without it. On all of the above projects there was a problem of communications between Park Office and the staff on the island who saw materials and people arrive of whom they were unaware. The preservation of the Theodore Beck Farm by the Rocheleau family had the further problem of breaking at the farmhouse which needed to be repaired when Past-President Paul was on the Island for the Schoolhouse painting.

All of this has a cost. We have been able to cover it with current funds and the contributions of several of you. In time we will need to appeal to all of you so that we can continue this work. Keep in mind that it is not being done for the Park Service, but in memory of those persons who settled the Island, their descendants, and those of us who just love the island and want its history to be preserved..

Respectfully Submitted,
Donald A. Morris, President

ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES July 29, 2000

EMPIRE TOWNSHIP HALL:

1:20 P.M. Meeting comes to order. Approximately 33 attendees. This year's meeting was conducted after the Potluck Supper instead of prior to the dinner.

Introduction of Board Members and Members present.

Old Business:

Minutes of 1999 Meeting were approved with a motion from Paul Rocheleau and a second to pass.

New Business:

Nominating Committee. Don Morris introduced Paul Rocheleau, committee leader for the Election Committee. Discussion, motion made by Cindy Heisler, and passed.

Joe Orbeck presented the Treasures Report. Motion by Dale Hutzler to approve and passed.

Fred Burdick Bequest	3,187.25
SMMS Perpetual Fund	5,000.00
Lighthouse Fund	625.00
Donation to Jack Phillips Fund	75.00
Donation to Fred Burdick Fund	50.00
TOTAL Allocated Funds	-\$ 20,582.22
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 33,172.52
*Available Operating Assets	\$ 12,590.30

Submitted by Joe Orbeck - Memorial Society Treasurer. 7/29/2000

Dale Hutzler voiced his concerns for the small attendance of the SMMS Potluck and Meeting. Appealed for suggestions to keep the Organization going.

Kathy Bietau discussed painting of the South Manitou Island Schoolhouse. Crew will be painting on Friday - Sunday Sept. 15 - 17, 2000. SMMS will purchase the paint and brushes. Paul Rocheleau is looking for a donor or discount for paint. We will be staying at the Shirk house on the island. Fifteen gallons of paint is needed. (To date, Judy Fogle was able to get a donation of 15 gallons of paint from Sherwin-Williams.)

Discussion with Dale Hutzler and Kim Mann regarding naming the houses on the island. Kim explained that the houses could not be named with signs on the houses (takes an Act of Congress), but perhaps "wayside" signs could be placed. Also, the houses would be named by who built them. i.e. Tobin instead of Leinbach.

Suggested that the school teacher's names be listed on a sign in front of the Schoolhouse.

Kim Mann shared information and accomplishments of the Barn Preservation Organization - on the August Beck barn foundation. More preservation work will be done over the Labor Day Holiday weekend

"The Rocheleau Team" boarded windows and doors at the Theodore Beck house (a.k.a. Lodge). Paul, Harvey, Melvin, Mike and Chris Rocheleau saved the building from further demise in May of 2000. Hauling tools and pre-made boards, they made three trips from the main road to the house (using a push cart). (Since the SMMS meeting, it was discovered that one door was broken into by vandals. Paul plans to board this door). Don Morris suggested we raise more money to accomplish these kinds of tasks in the future.

Kim Mann explained and discussed facilities management of the Draft Historic Properties Management Plan for Sleeping Bear Dunes. More meetings are planned - one is coming up in December, 2000 in Empire and Lansing. Contact Kim Mann at Park Headquarters - 231-326-5134 for further details. Internet site: www.nps.gov/slbe/.

Dale Hutzler expressed concern about the elderly who cannot visit many parts of the island and he wonders how the SMMS and NPS could make some areas more handicap accessible.

The North Manitou Island Cemetery boundary is currently defined with posts, no fence. There are 33 burial plots, with 8 stones in the cemetery. The sign stating who is buried within the cemetery, was paid for by the SMMS, and was put in place by Ray Kimple.

Kim Mann explained how some members could be buried on the islands. The Cemetery Policy states: Only past residents, their descendants or heirs, may be buried in the cemetery located on North and South Manitou Islands. If you wish to be buried on the islands, send a letter stating such to Superintendent, Ivan Miller, of Sleeping Bear Dunes N.L. Contact Kathy Bietau for a copy of the Cemetery Policy.

Duane Pierson, Assistant Superintendent of Sleeping Bear Dunes N.L., will retire September 1, 2000.

Leota Hutzler Goeman, daughter of Ernest Hutzler, and mother of Cindy Heisler and Bill Goeman, passed away on May 9, 2000. You are welcome to make donations to the SMMS, in her honor. Cindy shared many pictures and letters belonging to her mother

Mrs. Irwin Beck Jr. has written a book about the Beck's of South Manitou Islands. Please see the article in this issue to purchase.

Mention was made of the Leelanau Historical Society Annual trip to North Manitou Island on Sept. 9, 2000. Contact Laura Quackenbush at 231-256-7475 or quackenbush@leelanauhhistory.org for details.

A round of applause for the hard work contributed by Kim Mann was given.

Mike Dewey, of Sleeping Bear Dunes N.L., is collecting data for transportation studies on South Manitou Island. Leelanau County still owns the roads on South Manitou. Roads that lead no where will be closed or remain closed. Contact Mr. Dewey at Park Headquarters for additional information.

Lynn Roe discussed with Kim Mann the Public Meeting Packet for the General Management Plan! Environmental Impact Statement. Wilderness boundaries were discussed and the proposed wilderness impacts to South Manitou Island. Please contact Kim Mann to get on the mailing list for meetings and to receive additional information regarding this plan process. 231-326-5134. P.O. Box 277 Front St. Empire, MI 49630.

Motion to adjourn meeting by Dale Hutzler, seconded by Don Tobin at 2:30p.m.

A New Book About the Beck Family and South Manitou Island **"The Beck Family Immigrates from Germany to South Manitou Island 1860"**

Mrs. Irwin Beck, Jr., of Empire Michigan has just finished writing a book about the life of her father-in-law, Irwin Beck Sr. He was born on South Manitou Island, the son of August and Elizabeth (Haas) Beck. She tells of the Beck Family journey from Callenstedt, Germany to South Manitou Island to Empire, Michigan. I understand the book is loaded with wonderful photographs along with a very detailed history and many great island stories! It should be available near to this printing. To obtain a copy or additional information please write: Mrs. Irwin Beck, Jr. 8558 W. Stormer Rd. Empire, MI 49630.

South Manitou Schoolhouse Painting **September 15-18th, 2000**



Painting the SMI Schoolhouse started with a big splash. Such a big splash, that the ferry couldn't take us across Lake Michigan on Friday, September 15, 2000. So four carloads of disappointed folks went and found other things to do for the day, with the hope of going the next day. Saturday was a GO! Seven of us jumped on the ferry: Janet Helmer, Irene Blanchard, Harvey & Doris Rocheleau, Kathy Bietau, Roger Jones, and Judy Fogle. Gwen Glatz was waiting to greet us on the island. We headed right out to the schoolhouse as soon as we dropped off our gear at the "Shirk" house. What a day it was. At least 65 degrees, and the sun was shining. Dunking our paint brushes into the white paint (15 gallons donated to us by Sherwin-Williams Paint Company from Lansing, Michigan - thank you!), we



got right into the swing of our brushes. Paul Rocheleau and his father, Melvin, joined us shortly thereafter. They came over in Paul's boat. Ten of us completed almost all of the painting that afternoon. No job was too short or too tall, always someone jumped right in to get the job done. Even the air vents and the bell tower looked grand. *Sidenote for Saturday: To reach the best apples on top of the tree, north of the schoolhouse, we took the tallest ladder, and later we made a wonderful apple crisp!*

On Sunday we finished the green trim and highest spots on the west side of the building. We even cleaned the windows, swept the inside floors and walls, and organized the "old stuff". Pictures were taken. A tour of the Beck farm showed the hard work accomplished by the volunteers at the Barn Preservation Workshop. We had a great time, and look forward to our next project!!

by Judy Fogle

August Beck Barn Foundation Restoration Project

May 30, 2000 I arrived on South Manitou Island (via the Park barge). The humid air was heavy with the sweet smell of lilac, apple and wild cherry blossoms - - which makes the bees and butterflies happy. I wish I knew

butterflies so I could tell you what kind I saw. They are so beautiful. In fact while I was using the weed whip at the Beck Farm - stove wood barn - several butterflies fluttered around right where I was cutting the tall grass inside and around the outside of the barn foundation. I was afraid one would get hit by the whip and kept moving away from them - but they would come closer. They must have been attracted by the sweet smell of the fresh cut grass.

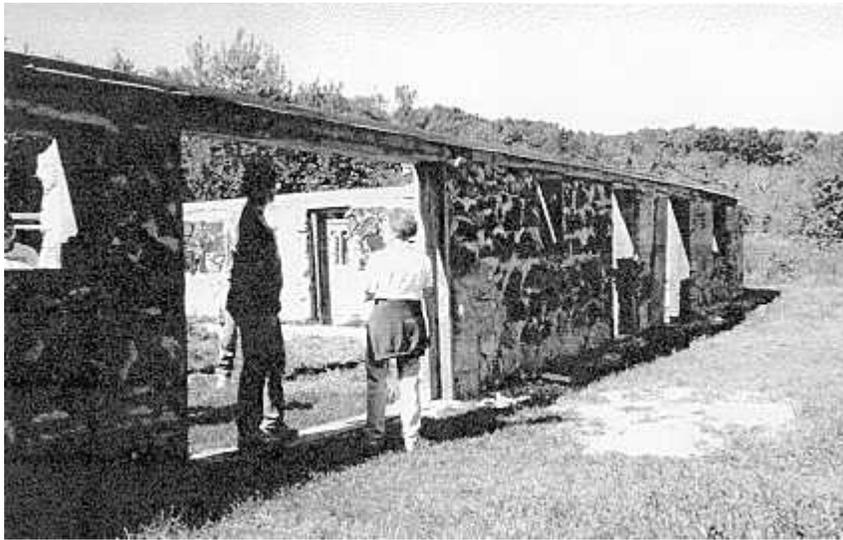
My presence on the Island as a volunteer was to help with the preparation work on the August Beck Farmstead Barn Foundation which was scheduled to start restoration June 9, 2000. The sponsors for this project include Michigan Barn Preservation Network, Manitou Island Transit, So. Manitou Island Memorial Society and Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear - headed (and joined) by Kim Mann, Historical Architect. I am pleased and honored to be a part of this project.

Kim gathered a group of wonderful, hard working multi-talented people from all corners of society for this project. What fun we all had with each other while getting dirty and performing a work of determination. Where did she find them all? I think many of us learned new skills we never expected to have or be able to do.

At the end of one very tiring day as Kim and I were sitting on bags of cement surveying the days progress - two campers hiked by and asked when did we expect to be finished. Kim replied, "this fall". The hikers seemed amazed with our undertaking. After they hiked on Kim and I started thinking they probably think we are going to rebuild the entire barn - walls, roof; etc. The plan is to make secure and restore the foundation of the barn, only. We were too tired to run after them to explain. So we just sat there with big smiles.

Many times I tried to envision what it was like when this barn was built - more than a hundred years ago. What kind of tools were used? How did they move those huge cedar logs to that location? Did the women and children help? Did they mix the cement by hand? Was the beach sand used in the cement? I would run my own hand over the remaining cedar and cement wall that was built so many years ago and know that another's hand had touched the very same spot. I only hope the work we did would be pleasing to those who first built this barn, as well as, anyone who ever lived or worked on that farm. What a special treat for me to be a part of this project!

by Gwen Glatz



The first 2000 Michigan Barn Preservation Network workshop on South Manitou Island was a success. Four timber framers and 36 volunteers assisted with the stabilization and restoration of the August Beck cord wood barn foundation. The work included removing encroaching vegetation from around the foundation, removing sod from off the dairy barn concrete floor, removing deteriorated sills and replacing them with new sills, pinning new sills, righting and stabilizing the dairy barn front wall and hand building a new stone foundation wall to support it. Missing cord wood from the barn was replaced with new pieces harvested last fall and dried over the winter.

Mike Mort with Equity Studios, Sturgis, Michigan was on site the first weekend to film the event. Mike is making a documentary for PBS of Historic Barns of Michigan. Mike believes that the film will be ready for PBS in two years. Barn participants will be notified of the air date.

Michigan Barn Preservation Network will finish the restoration of the barn September 1st - 5th, 2000. Anyone interested in participating should contact Kim Mann at (231) 326-5135 ext 501. Photo's of this project will be available for viewing at the Annual Meeting & Picnic.

South Manitou Island Tour July 30, 2000

Attended: Harvey & Dolores Rocheleau, Bill Goeman, Joni Carlson, Paul Maleski, Joe Orbeck, Kristine Olsen Clark, Don & Zella Morris, David & Jennifer Lawrence (Professor of Facility Management, MSU), Paul Rocheleau, Judy & Amanda Fogle.

Good day for an outing on South Manitou Island. Smooth waters and clear skies. After a picnic in front of the Ranger Station, we filled a tour buggy and headed to the schoolhouse. Since the building wasn't open, we all hiked to Lake Florence. Lake Florence's water level was down quite a bit, since Lake Michigan is down too. Back at the schoolhouse we told stories about others that had attended school, i.e. Fred Burdick and the Tobins. One woman told stories about the one runner sleds that the boys from Petoskey taught to the northern Michigan boys - how to ride/sled. Group pictures were taken.

A quick visit to the cemetery found everything peaceful. We headed out to the farms so we could view the barn preservation work at the Beck Farm. We were impressed!

Then we dropped off a group that headed to the Theodore Beck Farmstead to view the recently completed work by the Rocheleau's. I drove a group back to the village so we could climb the lighthouse and visit the Visitor Center. Some of us checked out the spot where the Shapley Cabin once stood, and had a swim on "our beach".

Everyone made it back to take the Mishe-Mokwa back to the mainland. All had a good time. We thank the Grosvenor's of Manitou Island Transit for providing transportation on the island!

submitted by Judy A. Fogle

SMMS Tour 2000

This year we all fit on one vehicle. Come ride with us next year. Tell us your story, or one that your ancestor told.



Do you or do you know someone who went to school on South Manitou Island? Do you remember your teacher? Send your story.

These SMMS members are hoping to see you at next year's 2001 SMMS meeting/potluck. Great food too!



Photos by Judy A. Fogle

Theodor Beck Farmhouse Stabilized



Thanks to the "Rocheleau Team", the Theodore Beck Farmhouse is stabilized from further vandalism and exposure to weather. In May of this year, Melvin Rocheleau and his sons, Chris, Mike and Paul, and his brother, Harvey went to South Manitou Island with pre-made shutters to board up the windows at their family farmhouse. Melvin and Harvey Rocheleau are the sons of Ida Beck, who is the daughter of Theodore Beck. Paul had measured the doors and window openings on an earlier trip to the island, and his father, Melvin cut the wood to size. There were 28 separate panels to cover the doors and windows. The cost of the materials was approximately \$300. It was paid for by the South Manitou Memorial Society. They transported the boards and supplies out to the site using a 2-wheel push cart, also with the assistance of the National Park Service. Although most windows and doors had been broken into, the roof was in good condition. Overall, they found the building to be sturdy and sound. The actual boarding of the doors and windows took the crew 5 hours. We are hoping to keep the building in a stabilized condition until restoration can be afforded.

We appreciate the hard work involved in this project by the Rocheleau Family and thank them for stabilizing this South Manitou Island Cultural Resource!

Editor's Note:

Remember Sleeping Bear Dunes National Park is also in the process of revising the General Management Plan for the park. This is a very important document - which we need to be involved with. The National Park Service Sleeping Bear Dunes maintains a web-site that contains much of the information we have been discussing in this Newsletter. You will find the Historic Properties Management Draft Plan there and items relating to the General Management Plan Revision Process. That address is: www.nps.gov/slbe. Take a look!! You can comment to many public documents via email at slbe@mns.gov. Get involved, it's Our Island's History!

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 The deadline for articles to be included in the next Newsletter is Feb 15, 2001. Please submit to Newsletter Editor: Kathy Bietau at: 11196 W. Clear Lake Cir. Branch, MI 49402. OR E-mail to bietau@carrinter.net