



# Manitou Islands Memorial Society

V16 No 2

Newsletter

Summer 2005

## 35th Annual North & South Manitou Island Reunion & Potluck Luncheon

Saturday, July 30, 2005  
10:00 AM ~ 4:00 PM  
Empire Township Hall  
Empire, MI 49630

## 17th Annual Meeting Manitou Islands Memorial Society

Saturday, July 30, 2005  
1:00 PM  
Empire Township Hall  
Empire, MI 49630

## 13th Annual South Manitou Island Excursion

Sunday, July 31, 2005  
9:00 AM ~ 6:00 PM  
Fishtown Dock  
Leland, MI 49632

Please see page 7 for more information about these events. 📄

### **Mishe-Mokwa Reservations** Space is Limited ~ Buy Your Tickets Today!



Transportation for the Island Excursion is provided by Manitou Island Transit. The voyage takes 90-minutes, departing Leland at 10:00 AM and leaving the Island in the afternoon at 4:30 PM.

The *Mishe-Mokwa* carries 133. At this writing, 46 seats have already been sold for Sunday, July 31. The July/August hump is right at the peak of the visitor season, so the boat is likely to be sold out on that day. If you plan to come along to the Island ... and we hope you will ... please consider making your reservations today. Tickets are \$25 (\$14 for kids 12 and under). You can reach Manitou Island Transit by calling 231-256-9061. They're open daily, 8AM to 6PM. Credit cards are accepted over the telephone, or you may mail a check or money order to confirm your reservation.

Visit [www.leelanau.com/manitou/](http://www.leelanau.com/manitou/) for more information. 📄

### **Worried about Sea Sickness?**

Seasickness is thought to result from the brain's difficulty in coping with confusing balance signals, but it is also known to be highly psychological. Studies show that everyone is susceptible to seasickness. If you're among the estimated 40% who are most vulnerable, you probably feel ambivalent about island crossings. Here's some good advice ... have a light meal no more than three hours before sailing, but avoid dairy products, rich foods or salty snacks. Stay upright, keeping your head up. Concentrate on the horizon to provide the brain with a frame of reference. Avoid activities such as reading, watching movies or playing video games. Occupy your mind with in conversation, or thoughts of something other than how lousy you're beginning to feel. If feeling ill, don't be embarrassed and try to pretend you're not affected; that only adds to the discomfort.



Many now swear by a set of wristbands called *Sea Bands*, or *Acu-Straps*. They work via acupressure points on the wrists, and are actually government approved for the relief of certain type of nausea. Look for these at Meijer, Wal-Mart or your favorite pharmacy. Price; about \$4 to \$8 per set.

As an exciting new initiative, MIMS, MIT and Health Enterprises Inc have instituted a pilot project, making a test quantity of this drug-free, one-size-fits-all sea sickness remedy available aboard MIT's boats. They'll be dispensed by the crew as needed, on a complimentary basis. If the results are favorable, the Memorial Society may adopt this as a permanent promotional public service. 📄

### **Membership Audit Envelope**

The bylaws require that the Secretary audit the membership roles annually coincident with the annual meeting. The purpose of the audit is to keep the mailing list up to date, to assure that everyone can be notified of opportunities and important events in the life of the organization. A mailer is enclosed for that purpose. You can also do this online at <http://www.manitouislands.org/members/>.

There is no need to RSVP in order to attend the annual reunion/meeting and island excursion. Indicate what your plans are if you can. Otherwise, don't worry about it. Just come and enjoy some good times with old friends, or soon-to-be old friends. 📄



### Where to Stay ~ Lodging Assistance

Affordable accommodations in the area of the Lakeshore are typically difficult to come up with on short notice. On the other hand, nearby Traverse City offers a wealth of choices, and usually has only a light calendar of activities the last weekend of July, when our events are always scheduled. Trips between Traverse City-Empire, Traverse City-Leland or Empire-Leland are all about 25 miles, or about 40-minutes driving time

Finding a place to stay in Traverse is easy ... the Traverse City Convention & Visitors Bureau offers a free area-wide Central Reservation Service, with travel counselors who will assist you in checking room availability, rates, and in making a reservation. Just dial 1-800-TRIVERS (1-800-872-8377). Or visit [www.mytraversecity.com/accommodations/](http://www.mytraversecity.com/accommodations/) to see what's available and to make reservations online. 📍

### What To Do With Grandma's Old Photo Albums and Scrapbooks ~ Free Scanning Offered at the Annual Reunion.

Over the years, grandma lovingly collected photos, newspaper clippings and other memorabilia about family, friends, home and significant events in the family's life. Then one day her life's work is passed on for safekeeping to a next-of-kin. Chances are, they'll also pass it on, and within a generation or two, few remember, or ever knew, enough about grandma's generation to appreciate all the things she so carefully saved. What to do with those aging albums and scrapbooks, with their fading pictures and brittle pages? Chances are, they'll eventually be discarded, and what a tragic loss that might be!

If you have an "at risk" collection, please consider donating it for permanent safekeeping under professional care. Leland's Leelanau Historical Society and Museum is our official collection agent. Contact LHS directly, or if you would prefer to have the Memorial Society act as intermediary, feel free to contact any Board member.

You might wish to browse through your collection to identify as many items as you can. Laura Quackenbush, MIMS member and LHS curator advises marking items lightly on the back with a regular pencil, either with a brief description or a number that can be indexed to a longer written description. Bring your unidentifiable items to the reunion. We'll provide a table where you can display them for possible identification by other members and visitors.

Meanwhile, Barbara Sieper, proprietor of Glen Arbor's *The Cottage Book Shop*, and Cynthia Dougal, who is affiliated with LHS, will set up scanning systems at the annual reunion in Empire to convert your pictures and other island-related memorabilia to digital form. This service will be provided free for those willing to sign a release, authorizing the unrestricted use of the scanned images. Barbara is working on a pictorial history of the Glen Arbor area, and might wish to use certain historic images in that work. Meanwhile, the MIMS web site maintains a searchable online archive of such material and will be eager to add your collection to the index. 📍



### Interest in "the Crib" Continues

On Thursday, June 16th, Paul Rocheleau and Gene Warner drove to Drummond Island for the annual meeting of the DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society. DRLPS came into existence about six years ago, as a grassroots initiative to save their lighthouse, which marks the southern end of the passage between lakes Huron and Superior. The DeTour Reef Light was in about the same run-down condition as the present state of the North Manitou Shoal Light, which most of us know as "the Crib". With no previous experience, local residents organized a nonprofit corporation, then launched an ambitious campaign to raise contributions and solicit grants. At this point, they've come up with upwards of \$1.6-million, and are very near completion of the restoration project. With the exception of work yet to be done, the light once again stands proudly at the entrance of the DeTour Passage, having been authentically restored to its original majesty.



On the way, Paul and Gene also called on BM1 Kris Nyland, the ATON Petty Officer at the St Ignace Station. Kris' group is currently responsible for the Crib. He shared pictures taken by his crew on a recent trip to the light, which confirmed its rather sad condition. Worst, according to Kris, is the "guano situation". Resident cormorants have left their mark ... inches thick in some places.

Besides raising the money, the challenges are two ...devising a "public use" (required by the Light Preservation Act) and visitor transportation. Since the DRLPS project preceded the Act, they have been able to come up with some innovative uses, including dinners and weekend "Lightkeeper" stays. They've decided to purchase and operate their own special purpose boat to solve the transportation dilemma.

Kris' team will be making a scheduled maintenance visit again July 27th. Pending our ability to arrange transportation, the Board will accompany them for a "hands on" inspection tour. Other key people will be invited, including legislator's local reps, lighthouse restoration experts, local tourism officials and other interested third parties. When we go to the island, we'll ask the Captain to pass by the Crib as closely and slowly as possible so you'll be able to have a good first-hand look. 📍

### SMI Schoolhouse Project

The schoolhouse preservation project is now well underway. The work is being done as a cooperative effort by the Lakeshore and the Memorial Society. The Lakeshore is providing professional advice and direction, treatment of LBP (lead based paint) issues, transportation for volunteers and materials, housing for volunteers, and refuse collection and removal. The Memorial Society is furnishing the elbow grease (volunteers), and is funding the cost of materials, supplies and other



expenses incidental to the preservation project. Once the job is complete, the Lakeshore will feature the building as a regular interpretive stop on the motor tours offered by Manitou Island Transit.

The “hands on” began June 6th with a site inspection and planning session. Island maintenance chief Bill Osterhaus, SLBE historic architect Kimberly Mann, and volunteer project coordinators Gwen Glatz and Anna DeCoster spent the day together at the schoolhouse to come up with the best approach.

The first crew of nine volunteers spent the weekend of June 23rd thru the 27th on the island. After getting the site organized, they completed the demolition of the remaining plastered walls. Furring strips were then installed for new drywall, which will be hung next trip, and the rotted floor was repaired. After having finished at the schoolhouse, the team split up to do several other tasks elsewhere on the island, including cemetery maintenance, fence repairs and erosion control.

The second workshop is scheduled for the same weekend as our annual island excursion. The “blue shirts” (our volunteer team) will be on hand to show you what they’ve accomplished so far, and they’ll also be participating in that day’s activities. The final workshop for this season will be the weekend of Aug 26th thru 29th. By that time most of the “heavy lifting” will have been accomplished, and we’ll be able to begin thinking about the finishing touches.



This project started as an exercise in grant writing, the focus of our first grant application. Had we won the award, we intended to make a concerted effort to finish the project in a single season. If not, “Plan B” was to do the job over two seasons, funding it from ordinary revenue. So it’s your generosity that is finally making this dream come true. But there’s yet another way you can participate ... blow the

dust off those old boxes and see what you can find by way of artifacts, or information that will help the Lakeshore interpreters do the newly preserved place justice. The above picture, marked “My seventh grade Class – April 1934” was found in a box of pictures saved by the late Myrtle (Kelderhouse) Warner, and donated to the Memorial Society by her daughter Janet Frascato. Do you know who these two are? Myrtle taught at the schoolhouse between 1933 and 1935. It was her first teaching assignment. What have you? Whatever you can contribute or loan is sure to be valued. ♫

### Partnering with PHSB & Cherry Republic

Paul and Mike Rocheleau, Gene Warner and Lynn Roe met with Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear Chairman Lanny Sterling and Project Coordinator Michael Matts in Empire on May 27th to discuss opportunities for working together on the islands. PHSP won an \$8,000 grant for historic preservation from the Historical Society of Michigan. We’ll help with the match, then part of the funding will be used to restore the chicken coop on the Conrad Hutzler farm, and some of the farm’s historic fields.



To help get those projects under way, PHSB’s Kima Kramer joined in the June 6th trip to South Manitou, and checked these sites out with Maintenance Supervisor Bill Osterhaus. As this picture shows, there’s not much left of the chicken coop. Kim and PHSB are not deterred however. They’ll reconstruct the building in a historically accurate way, using as much of the original planking as possible.

The large field adjacent to the farmstead has been taken over by scrub and small to medium size trees. Using tractors and volunteers, PHSB will reclaim the rolling farmland. A small orchard nearby is also in need of pruning and maintenance. This will be the first of an ongoing work project to clear and then assist the National Park in maintaining this cultural landscape. Glen Arbor-based Cherry Republic has adopted this endeavor, and will support the ongoing maintenance needs as a corporate work project. ♫



Page 4



Manitou Islands Memorial Society

### President Carries On Founder’s

this little shack. The scene instantly triggers one’s interest and imagination ... what a great winter scene for a MIMS Christmas Card! On closer inspection, the building’s several



## Personal Mission

Over the Memorial Day weekend, permanent markers were placed at the North Manitou Island cemetery on the graves of Andrew Paetschow, (died in 1896) and John Paetschow (died 1922). The crosses are handmade, consisting of reinforced cast concrete, with an engraved brass plaque.

This continues a tradition begun some twenty years ago as a personal initiative by Memorial Society co-founder Glen Furst. He passed the torch to Paul Rocheleau in 1993, the year Paul was elected President for the first time. In fact, Paul is still using the wooden mold Glen originally created in casting the crosses. Paul usually makes the crossing alone in his own small outboard when on such a mission. In recent years, the graves to be marked have been on North Manitou. A unit of the Sierra Club traditionally holds a volunteer workshop on North over the Memorial Day weekend, and willingly assists with the grave-marking project.



The Paetschow family was related through marriage to the Grosvenor family. A son, John L Paetschow married Tracy Grosvenor's cousin, Bessie Firestone in 1906. He preceded Tracy in carrying mail and freight between the mainland and the islands until 1917, when his boat went mysteriously missing from the Glen Haven dock, where he had stopped to pick up groceries. Without a boat, he was no longer able to honor his contract with the government, so Tracy took it over, moving the operation to Leland. Paetschow went on to a career in the Lighthouse Service. Grosvenor descendants have continued in the business from Leland ever since. ♪

## A New Preservation Initiative ... Harrison Haas' Fish Shanty

Just behind the Haas house (more recently known as the Jenks cottage) sits a real treasure! This is one case where permitting a building to deteriorate to a rather decrepit state enhanced its aesthetic allure. One needs to reach deep into the soul to quantify the feelings that arise on first sight of



## Harrison Haas House Gets a New Roof by Peter Jenks - September 2004

My father, Jack ("Gus") Jenks, bought the Harrison Haas house in 1957 from a family friend in Frankfort who had

unique and inexplicable little quirks only deepens the intrigue. Saving this jewel in its present condition is Kimberly Mann's vision. (Kim is the Lakeshore's Historical Architect.) It won't take much to freeze the building in its present moment ... just a few hundred dollars to produce some rough milled lumber, and a lot of elbow grease. Interestingly, the lumber will come from the Lakeshore itself. The many CCC pine plantings are classed as non-native "exotics", which will gradually be removed. Until then, Kim makes use of these logs as an economical source of materials for stabilization and restoration projects around the Lakeshore, having them milled as needed for the project at hand. The Memorial Society has been invited to fund the milling of the logs, and towards the end of the season, volunteers will do the work at the shanty under Kim's careful direction. ♪

### Potato ~ "Potahto"

The Haas name was pronounced "Hase", with a long A. Accordingly, correspondents sometimes misspelled the name "Haase".

## SLBE Refurbishing South Manitou Lighthouse Buildings

The Lakeshore has obtained funding to do some much-needed maintenance on South Manitou's lighthouse.

The work will include painting the exterior of the light, roof repairs, and other exterior and interior renovations. The tower will therefore not be open to visitors for much of the 2005 season. Other buildings in the complex will be opened for inspection and the Park has provided some temporary interpretive displays at the site.



Lakeshore maintenance specialist Bill Love and a colleague are working on the South Manitou Lighthouse, tuck pointing as necessary, and repainting the tower. As of mid-June, the top had been painted, and the area from the deck up had been tuck pointed and made ready for painting. Naturally, while the work is going on, the lighthouse will not be open to visitors. Now that the top part of the tower has been completed however, the crew has decided the lighthouse can now be opened on weekends as a courtesy to island visitors. ♪

### What Our Volunteers Are Worth

The Bureau of Labor Statistics says the national average value of each hour of volunteer time for 2004 was \$17.55. This figure was based on the average hourly earnings of all production and non-supervisory workers on private non-farm payrolls, with 12% added to capture the average value of fringe benefits. Hourly rates differ geographically; thus the average for Michigan would be about \$18.33 per hour. Thus the value of this season's three scheduled weekend workshops is, at minimum, about \$13,198.

the old cottage for the fishing high ground with island's job and were able only to make yearly pilgrimages to the 90+-year-old lighthouse keeper's house. As one can imagine, there were always jobs to do, but it was always the high point of the summer for us kids as we were growing up.

My wife Katy was introduced to the island in the early 1980's, and after that she and I continued coming up together on our annual pilgrimage from Georgia for nearly twenty years. Having recently relocated back to Traverse City, we were interested in helping preserve our old cottage. In 1996, we had done some extensive structural repairs to the south side of the roof, and re-roofed that side prior to turning the property over to the NPS. The rest of the roof was still sound. Rolled roofing however has a limited life span, and with little attention since then, the roof once again needed some help.

As fall drew near, Katy and I found ourselves facing a tough choice. Having been out to South Manitou Island twice during the summer, we had noticed that the roof of our old cabin had fallen into disrepair. Water was getting in and sitting on the floors; that's never a good sign. Knowing how the Michigan weather takes it's toll on a structure, the choice was this: to either let winter have it's way and take a chance of possibly not having materials available the next year, or to get it done then while the materials were available and we had the time.

With intentions of developing a spirit of cooperation with the Park, we mentioned to some of the park staff that we thought the roof might not last another winter. As everyone knows, budget money for such projects is non-existent these days, so we thought this might be a good time to consider volunteering. If the park could provide materials, perhaps we could round up a group to go out and re-roof the old Jenks-Haas cottage; indeed, there had been a lot of interest expressed around the campfire earlier in the summer. Kimberly Mann and a group of volunteers had put up a temporary patch to try to get through the winter, but with labor and material available now, we felt this was the best time. The Lakeshore agreed, so all we had left to do was round up our group of eager volunteers and make it happen.

Well the best of plans can run afoul of realities, and campfire zeal somehow gave way to the obligations of work, families and all the other things that get in the way. It was down to Katy and me. Fortunately, we were able to enlist the help of my dad's only brother, Terry Jenks, who came up from Rockford IL. Uncle Terry had been instrumental in helping my dad get the water system installed, digging septic fields, painting, plumbing and lots of other thankless tasks back in the late 1950's and early 1960's, and he really knew the place better than I did. After a long absence, he had returned recently and began spending time with his family on the island. So the three of us, Uncle Terry, Katy and I, were on



for a two-weekend ordeal to take off the old roof and install the new one. The weather was perfect ... the last two weeks of decent weather that we had, in fact. The first weekend out we shoveled off three layers of old rolled roofing and cleaned off all the debris. We found that the deck needed some patching, and began to worry whether we would get it covered before Sunday's boat. Just as we began to tire and doubt our strength and stamina, help arrived in the form of "The All-Star, All-Girl Roofing Drywall Painting And Rescue Party". Our friend Gwen Glatz had been working on the schoolhouse with her friends Anna DeCoster, Emilie Korpi, Sarah Wendt, and Debbie Dekker ... a crew who quickly became our new friends. They came scurrying up the ladders and began patching and nailing ... and before we knew it, we were "dried in". With their help, we had the felt down and were all buttoned up in case of rain.

The weather held through the following weekend, so we headed back out to finish what we started, once again with no takers from the campfire circle. Katy and I were on our own this time; we had committed to the job and were bound to finish it! As we hauled the rolled roofing up to the ridge, we really began to feel our age. But, heads down, we just kept nailing ... until Sunday's sudden boat announcement. He was coming early! We had just enough time, without a minute to spare, to pack up and haul out our gear.

The boat ride home was a chance to reflect on our two-week project. We felt fortunate for having received the Lakeshore's permission and support, and especially Kimberly Mann's advice and assistance. It felt good to give something back and to know that we had helped to preserve one of the island's historic assets and a small piece of our family's history. We were also grateful for my Uncle Terry ... for all his help, and for sharing his memories of island times from years ago.

It was also good to have made so many new friends! We will not soon forget the gallantry of Gwen and her crew. We are grateful for their selfless acts of generous heroism, and look forward to an opportunity to somehow repay their kindness this coming summer. 🍷



### **News from the Nominating Committee – Prospective Candidates Seem Reluctant to Step Forward**

Up for election at this year's annual meeting are the positions of Vice President and Secretary. Each new Board also makes its own appointments, so the appointed positions of Media Director and Hospitality Director are also available.

### **Secretary's Notes ...**

The following data is current to 6/30/2005. Our fiscal year is August 1 through July 31. "Interested Third Parties" are elected and appointed officials, NPS staff, other organizations, vendors, etc. "Receipts" include only funds received by mail and electronically through our online payment processor. Donated expenses or contributions that might have been tendered in some other way are not included below.



as a team, and there is always plenty of opportunity for anyone who wishes to be engaged.

The Secretary position is probably the most labor-intensive and time-consuming position on the Board. If you're actively employed in a full-time job, you probably should not consider this position. If you're retired and looking for something challenging and meaningful to do with all your spare time, this job is for you! Communication skills, organization skills and a practical level of computer literacy are essential.

As Media Director, you'd be responsible for all printed and online communications. These include the newsletter, the web site, special mailings, and media promotion activities. To do a good job here, you'll need good communication skills, a knack for graphic arts, computer skills and a meticulous attitude towards details.

The Hospitality Director is responsible for arranging accommodations for meetings and other corporate activities. This includes the annual reunion, island excursion, and outfitting workshops on the islands. This is a great opportunity for someone with good organizational skills, and a background in the hospitality business ... or for anyone who enjoys the challenge of hosting successful affairs.

These are all Board positions. Serving on the Board of Directors is rewarding and fun. It doesn't pay anything, but will look great on your *curriculum vitae*. Want to know more? Ask for a copy of the booklet *MIMS, Inc*". Or if you think you're a good fit for one of these opportunities ... or know someone whom the Nominating Committee should be talking to, let them know at 877-842-7658 (toll free), or [nominations@manitouislands.org](mailto:nominations@manitouislands.org). ♣

### Riker Memorial Service

The interment observance for Edward and Esther Riker at the South Manitou Island Cemetery has been indefinitely postponed, pending the release of Mr. Riker's remains by University of Michigan's willed body program. ♣



### Schedule

#### Annual Reunion/Meeting

Empire, MI – Saturday, July 30<sup>th</sup>

**10:00 AM – 12:00 PM:** Arrival and check-in at the Township Hall. Time to socialize ... renew and make new acquaintances. Bring photos to scan; help others identify theirs. Coffee, tea, and soft drinks will be provided.

**10:00 AM – 2:00 PM:** "... on the Beach" ... Weather permitting, younger members of your family might prefer to play at Empire's beach park. It's within easy walking distance of the Township Hall (food, pop), Deerings Market (candy) and Tiffany's (ice cream cones.)

The Vice President's position is as active or passive as the person holding that office wishes it to be. The Vice President's only function under the bylaws is to stand in for an absent or disabled President. However, the Board of Directors operates

Since the Spring newsletter:

New Members: .....8  
Other Contributions:..... 25  
Cash Receipts:.....\$930

Fiscal Year to date:

New Members:..... 42  
Other Contributions:..... 82  
Cash Receipts:.....\$3,317

Database Statistics

Total Members ..... 394  
Member Households..... 272  
Removed by Request.....0  
Died.....3  
Interested Third Parties..... 38

New Members:

Anna DeCoster  
Mary Lou Haynes  
Stephen L Hope  
James & Gretchen Kudlack  
Carl & Mary Luther  
Sarah Wendt ♣

### Markers for "Unknown" Graves ...

Kimberly Mann has provided a diagram of the South Manitou Island Cemetery drawn by Lakeshore sign-maker Kevin Kelly, showing the location of two unmarked burial sites outside the fence. Legend has it that these are the graves of two black men who were either working as wooders, else were possibly cholera victims removed from a passing ship. Kim suggested that marking these burial sites would be a worthy project, and would protect them from future foot and vehicular traffic.



While we ordinarily provide crosses with bronze plaques, it's not clear that would be appropriate in this case.

Alternatively, a plain, vertical marble or granite slab, as used around the turn of the century, will be used. Although difficult to come by today, granite "stair treads" are common and their "rustic" appearance would work out quite well. Two have been ordered from a Massachusetts quarry. They'll be engraved with the single legend, "UNKNOWN", and placed by our volunteers under the Lakeshore's direction. Rocks of an appropriate size will also be gathered to mark the perimeters of the graves in the traditional fashion. When you visit the cemetery, you'll find these graves just outside the gate. ♣

The ceremony will feature appropriate music provided by our workshop volunteers, and the ringing of the bell as honorees are cited. Transportation will be provided for everyone from the Station to the Main Cemetery, courtesy of MIMS and MIT.

**1:00 PM – Tours & Guided Hikes**

- Motor Tours, hosted by the Island Interpreter and courtesy of MIMS and MIT, will continue for those wishing to participate in that activity. There'll be a special tour of the schoolhouse to see what our "Award Winning Team" of volunteers have been able to accomplish thus far.
- A choice of guided hikes will be offered for those



**12:00 PM** – “Quasi” Pot Luck Luncheon. Deerings will be catering a baked ham and roast turkey this year. *Bring your favorite side dish or desert to share if you can.*

**1:00 PM** – Annual Meeting: Election of Officers, Scholarship Award.

**1:30 PM** – Short Program: *Gateway to Superior ~ Saving the DeTour Reef Light* a documentary video presented by the DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society.

**2:15 PM** – Final announcements and adjournment.

**3:30 PM** – Last call for refreshments; volunteer crew begins the “GI Party”!

**4:00 PM** – Hall closes.

**Sunset** – Join the kids, or the usual gang of Empire residents at the beach to watch the sun go down. Cool breezes, friendly conversation, jokes and good times. The “*Green Flash Fellowship*” is a BYOB affair ... water, tea, soda pop or what have you. 🍹

### Schedule South Manitou Island Excursion Leland, MI – Sunday, July 31<sup>st</sup>

**9:15 AM** – Recommended arrival and check-in time at Leland’s Fishtown docks. Advance reservations are advised to guarantee space and avoid the sometimes-hectic last minute activity on the dock ... phone MIT at 231-256-9061. Free parking provided by special arrangement with MIT.

**10:00 AM** – All Aboard; *Mishe-Mokwa* departs for South Manitou at 10-o’clock sharp!

**11:30 AM** – Arrival at the island. Welcoming comments/orientation by the Island ranger, distribution of handouts. Free catered picnic at the front lawn of the Coast Guard Station immediately following.

**12:30 PM** – Memorial Ceremony at the Main Cemetery, honoring those members who made the “final crossing” since last we met. Dedication of newly placed markers for “Unknowns”. Rev Kirby D Smith, acting Senior Minister at Lansing’s historic Westminster Presbyterian Church, will script this event as a purely non-sectarian, non-denominational adaptation of an “All Souls” celebration and will officiate on the island.



Manitou Islands Memorial Society

Page 8

### Clips from Grandma’s Scrapbook

#### Notes Inside the Cover

- \* *South Manitou Isl. first settled in 1840 by Mr Burton*
- \* *Coast Guard Sta established there in 1902*
- \* *Drove well deeper at Glen Haven Nov 15, 1964*
- \* *Granpa (George Haas) settled on So. Manitou Isl. in 1856*
- \* *Built No. Manitou Shoal Crib in 1933* 🍷

#### Letter from a Friend

Dear August

~~Wishing to experience the island on foot, or climb to~~

**3:30 ~ 4:20 PM** – Rendezvous time back at the Station. Take a load off while you enjoy the company of good friends, with complimentary refreshments to help grease the conversation.

**4:30 PM** – *Mishe-Mokwa* departs the island, hopefully with everyone aboard. Great photo opportunities with the sun at a low angle behind your back! MIT’s bar is open during the return trip ... enjoy your favorite soft drink or brewski.

**6:00 PM** – Arrival in Leland, and farewell for another year. 🍷

#### **Island Excursion Attendees ~ Where to Go, Where to Park in Leland.**

If you’re going to the island, you’ll find the Manitou Island Transit dock in Leland’s Fishtown ... at the end of River Street, Leland’s main downtown cross street. Things are often hectic on the dock just before sailing time, so unless you have things to unload, please proceed directly to the parking area ...



1. Turn right (east) off Main St (M-22) onto River Street at “The Early Bird” restaurant.
2. Turn right on Chandler Street
3. Turn right at either East Boulevard Drive or Oak Street, at the “MIT Parking” sign
4. Park anywhere on the open field in that area.

Parking is free for island excursion participants, by special arrangement with Manitou Island Transit. Show your membership card if asked. MIT provides transportation from the parking area to the dock. If the red MIT truck isn’t waiting for passengers it will soon return. If you have time, you may wish to walk the short distance to the dock. Simply return the way you came. But please note ...*the boat leaves promptly at 10:00 AM!* 🍷

native of South Manitou, began the first of his many years of lighthouse service on Lake Michigan. His first position in that year was as an assistant keeper of the South Manitou Lighthouse.

I can only sincerely hope that the South Manitou Lighthouse will not suffer the fate of many of our lighthouses the United States over. Again and again, I have seen lighthouses abandoned to thoughtless vandals and the ravages of the weather. I am told that the South Manitou Lighthouse is one of the tallest, if not the tallest, lighthouse on the Great Lakes. It certainly is one of the most beautiful. If it must be a memorial to anyone, let it be to those sturdy Germans and Scandinavians who came to South Manitou when it was little more than a

I want to be one of the first to congratulate you on your appointment as Chief of Police of your beautiful island. Of all the good old roughnecks on the island, your Mayor Mr Boles could not have selected a better chap for the job. Having been more or less of a pirate and rascal all your life, you will know just how to deal with the many desperate characters on the island.

However, I love you all and your good wife Rosie, and hope to get over and see you all one of these days. Perhaps have a meal on legal size whitefish?

Congratulations and best wishes from one of your many friends -

Mark Crow  
 Traverse City  
 August 28, 1950

*ed* - Mark Crow distinguished himself as a "pioneer game warden", noted for his zealous and enlightened promotion of conservation, and also for his fearless and unbiased enforcement of game laws. His area of responsibility, beginning in the late 1920's, included South Manitou Island. He died in 1962 at the age of 96. ♣

**Opinion Regarding the Proposed National Park**

Leelanau Enterprise  
 October 1960

To The Editor:

I have read with interest the articles which have appeared in this newspaper over the past few weeks concerning the proposed National Park in western Michigan, and the preservation of the South Manitou Lighthouse.

Regarding the lighthouse, I have a personal interest in this structure. It was in 1892 that my grandfather, Louis Hutzler, a

primeval wilderness in the 1840's and 1850's. If a national park must be established in this area, South Manitou Island itself might be restored and maintained as an early pioneer community. This area, one of the earliest to be settled in this part of western Michigan, was 75 years ago a booming agricultural community. Settlement was here a number of years before there were well-developed areas on the Michigan mainland.

The islands of eastern Lake Michigan were once the natural stopping-off points between Chicago and the Canadian coastal cities. With the development of the railroad in the western part of the state and the subsequent decline of lake transportation, eventually these islands became remote and many of their people moved to the more convenient Michigan mainland.

Last summer, while roaming over South Manitou for the First time and surveying the former farms and homes of maternal grandparents and great uncles, I was amazed at the apparent neglect and disinterest of my generation in the very things that were so important to their grandparents. Most of their farms lie ruined and deserted. All that remains today of their once pioneer spirit lies buried in a few small cemeteries scattered about the island. Their graves almost as neglected as their farms.

It would be fitting if the Federal Government would restore this pioneer community to its former prominence of perhaps the 1880's and it certainly would be one of the government's least expensive projects.

Much of the beauty of South Manitou consists of natural beauty - her natural harbor, her high sand dunes, the hills and valleys dotted with evergreens, the beautiful inland lake and wild berry patches. If South Manitou must be a National Park, or rather part of a National Park, cannot these things be preserved for future generations of Americans?

Donald Roy  
 Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania ♣

*ed* - The Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore came some ten years later. Don Roy was among the first to join the Memorial Society. His interest in, and affection for, the island has endured ever since. He currently resides in Whitefield, NH.



Manitou Islands Memorial Society

**2nd Annual Crowner Memorial Scholarship Goes to Traverse City St Francis Graduate**



The Memorial Society is happy to award this year's scholarship to Molly A Maxbauer, Traverse City St Francis High School Class of 2005.

The Gerald A Crowner Memorial Scholarship was established to promote interest among young scholars in preserving and interpreting the historic and cultural traditions of Michigan's North and South Manitou Islands. The \$500

award is available to graduating high school seniors or post

cloaked in darkness. By fully utilizing the capabilities of the lighthouse, the passage was made much safer and more popular, greatly reducing the number of shipwrecks and increasing the potential for business and commerce throughout the Great Lakes.

Once sailors discovered the safety in harbors of the Manitou Islands, they became a very popular destination for refueling steamers. The stop was a popular one in which crew could restock on food, passengers on drinks at the infamous Cedar Board Saloon, and the ship itself of fuel in the abundance of lumber. Some passengers, enamored by the overwhelming beauty of the isles, decided not to board the ship again after such stops as these. One man in particular, George Johann Hutzler, was so taken by the fresh air and vitality of the island that he decide to live there with his family and started the first known farm on South Manitou. Agriculture on the island proved a successful endeavor and some crops, in particular a unique strain of rye, flourished without the threat of cross-pollination common in mainland farming.

The attraction to the islands because of lumber was a strong one, especially in the late eighteen hundreds. It was first sought after for



high school students. The recipient is invited to participate as "Guest of Honor" at our annual events the last weekend in July. Applicants must write an essay, choosing one of three general themes dealing with the importance of the islands and the U.S. Lifesaving Service, U.S. Lighthouse Service and the U.S. Coast Guard to Lake Michigan's maritime history.

Molly's winning essay, *The Legacy of the Manitou Islands*, is reprinted below.

***The Legacy of the Manitou Islands***  
By Molly A Maxbauer

Places like Yellowstone and the Smokey Mountains are normal connotations when thinking of National Parks in the United States. As a lifelong resident of Northern Michigan it is often easy for one to overlook the beauty and majesty of the National Park, the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, in one's own back yard. But a closer inspection of the compelling history and tradition surrounding this area, especially the North and South Manitou Islands, reveals an importance beyond the ascetic beauty that first strikes a viewer. Both islands, known collectively as the *Sleeping Bear* islands after Native American legend, served a tremendously important and often overlooked role in the navigation of the Great Lakes and settlement of the surrounding areas.

The Manitou Passage, located between the two isles and the mainland, provided a swift, and in its earliest years often risky, route for ships sailing between Chicago to the Straits of Mackinaw. The risk of the passage lay in its shallow nature that often wrecked ships, an estimated one hundred and fifty in total, on rocky shoals. This risk seemed marginal, however to crews and ships looking to save time on lengthy voyages that sometimes took them on long distances, such as from Chicago to Buffalo, New York.

The solution to this problem came in the early eighteen hundreds when Congress approved funding for a lighthouse to be positioned on South Manitou's "Crescent Bay". The first lighthouse was cared for by William Burton; the responsibility of it was too great for him and the management position switched quickly. It was agreed after he left that the manager of the lighthouse would have to maintain a full commitment to the lighthouse, and that the responsibility of caring for the house was a great one. The payoff was great as well however, for seafarers traveling the Manitou Passage at night, the lighthouse providing a point of reference in a sea of shallow waters otherwise

fuel for the wood-burning steamers that frequented the isles, with one hundred to three hundred ships passing the Straits every day. Farmers too used the lumber, in their case to build their homesteads, and entrepreneurs quickly saw an opportunity in harvesting the wood for sale. Somehow, despite the lumber frenzy of the late nineteenth century, a group of giant white cedars survived. They are located on South Manitou Island where one in particular is believed to be the oldest in the world; it is estimated to be over five hundred years old.

With the dawn of locomotion in the early nineteen hundreds, use of the Manitou Passage became less and less frequent as transportation by way of water became less of a necessity. Added to that was the increasing popularity of coal burning vessels, this negated the use of lumber, and the importance of the Islands themselves. Lumberjacks and the U.S. Coast Guard itself soon found it impractical and unnecessary to stay on the islands, and moved away. Only a handful of residents, who loved their island home despite having endured all the hardships and isolation that life there entailed, stayed on. The most famous resident, given the title *Queen of the Island* for having not stepped foot on the mainland for twenty-two years, was Bertha Peth, former daughter-in-law of pioneer George Johann Hutzler.

Today the islands stand mostly isolated, except for the National Park Service and a steady stream of tourists lured by the legends of majesty and tragedy that surround them. They rise above Lake Michigan in splendor, gifts of the Great Spirit Manitou in remembrance not only of two legendary cubs, but also two centuries of settlers, sailors and travelers, and more importantly as a part of the expansion and growth of a young country. They may be only minutes from our homes, but the history and tradition of the Manitou Islands is not something to be taken lightly, because it is a significant part of a bigger picture, the history of the United States.

*ed ~ Molly is the daughter of Paul and Susan Maxbauer of Traverse City, She graduated as a Valedictorian of her High School class in June of this year. She was involved in the Student Council, National Honors Society, Alpine Ski Team, Cross Country, Track, and Soccer. Her other interests include, running, skiing, swimming, reading, and fashion. She will be attending the College of St. Benedict in Minnesota to study either communications or foreign relations.*



**Manitou Islands Memorial Society**

PO Box 177  
Empire MI 49630-0177

---

***“Blue Shirts” Thank You for a Successful  
First Workshop on South Manitou***

The first of three rather intensive schoolhouse workshops scheduled for this season resulted in a happy success over the weekend of June 23 through the 26<sup>th</sup>. To engender a spirit of camaraderie (and just for fun), the Memorial Society provided the volunteers with monogrammed navy blue tee shirts and caps, the shirts also carrying the legend, “Award Winning Team”.

Hard work and good fellowship always makes for a good time, and this trip was evidently no exception. Here are some “postmortems” written by the nine volunteers: The Board adds its thanks to you for making such achievements possible. ♪

*This whole VIP trip would not be possible if it had not been for you. You continued to calm me down each time I was ready to quit. Then I would dive back in. Thanks. - Gwen Glatz*

The shirts were very cool ...especially the "Award Winning Team". A lot of the island visitors wondered about our status. It gave us all something to chuckle about. I thank you and the Memorial Society for giving us all the opportunity to be on this beautiful island with restoration jobs to do. We all enjoyed getting to know each other, admire each other's work, and laugh while telling funny stories. We liked working with the rangers too. Sincerely - Tamara Glatz

*Thank you so much for making this all possible. The first day was the inside of the schoolhouse, tearing out plaster and furring strips from the walls. I can't remember ever being in such a white cloud of dust! We really cleaned it up and made it ready for the sheetrock. Gwen made us wear our MIMS shirts every day (we washed them every night). By the way, thanks for those shirts and hats. They were a hit. - Janet Helmer*

This has been a great opportunity to work out here. The schoolhouse project is really looking great. I think the idea of look-alike shirts is great to get the attention of other visitors. Thanks for all your efforts to make this happen. I hope to be back in August - Steve Hicks

*This was my first trip to South Manitou. I am in love. Working on the schoolhouse and several burial places felt good. A great way to give back. The people, staff and overall experience was very positive. I will wear my shirt and hat with pride. I would like the chance to return and do more. This is the type of opportunity that makes us all better people. Thank you for all your hard work and making this possible - Steve Hope*

Thank you so much for all your support. The opportunities you have provided for us to be able to give back to place and community which has given us so much is so very gratifying. We are so fortunate to be supported by someone who sacrifices so much of themselves. P.S. We love the shirts and hats too. :- ) Thanks - Katy Jenks

*Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the work details on SMI. Your support and encouragement are what make this all possible. We look forward to a continued effort between the Manitou Islands Memorial Society and the volunteers. I hope to do this more often. We hope to work on the "shed" project. Maybe we can meet in person. I look forward to it. - Pete Jenks*

You have been such a help and clam spirit of organization. :- ) Thanks so much. - Anna DeCoster

*Although I have yet to meet you in person, I feel that I have met you already because everything we were able to do here on the island was due to your fantastic efforts. You are very appreciated! Thank you! - Sarah Wendt*