



Manitou Memories

Volume 2

Spring 2008

Issue 2

Manitou Memories

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Bylaws of the Manitou Islands Memorial Society were amended on July 28, 2007. With much discussion the members agreed on annual dues of \$10.00 per member. The annual dues commenced on July 31st, please renew your support now.

MIMS,
P.O. Box 177,
Empire, MI 49630.

As always, we appreciate your donations, past, present, and future!

Thank you for your recent contribution

Monetary Gifts

James & Kaylynn Anderson
Robert H. Beck
Sandra M. Black
Marcie Brightman
Keith Cameron
Robert D. Chew
David and Nancy Clark
Dorothy Cooley
Tom, Kim, Chris H. Cubberly
Mike Fisher
Don and Judy Fogle
Claire and Thomas Fox
Charles and Sharron Furst
Michael and Ina Gerdenich
Gwen Glatz
Charles Gum
Trina Haas
Edward & Nancy Hahn
Richard J. Halik
Miss Georgienne Hammer
Brian T. Hazlett
John and Cynthia Heisler
Linda K. Henry
Margaret I. Hines
Margaret E. Hodges
Neil and Mary J. Hodges
Pete and Jelaine Horton
John and Suzanne F. Hughes
Peter and Katy Jenks
John S. Karliak
Kerry and Kathy Kelly
Joseph and Rhonda Kruch
Robert and Mary Anna Kruch
Sylvia B. Kruger
Peter and Betty Mann
George and Connie Marsh
Cheryl And David McDaniel
Glenn J. McLalin
Patricia A. Nader
Dawn Niewenhuis

Joseph and Janet Novak
Robert and Germaine A. Oberst
Joseph A. Orbeck
Maryellen Paull
William and Jayne V. Payne
Thomas A. Persing
Wil Reding
Paul and Sue Rocheleau
Donald and Carol Jules Sanctorum
John A. Shaul
Joanna B. Smith
Anna Smucker
Ethan R. Sparrow
Carol and Joseph Taber
Jason Tenjeras
Dorothy and John Tobin
Harold Wallace
Richard E. Williams
Donna M. Winters
Randy and Joan Woods

Relighting of Light Project

A Fund From The Cleveland Foundation \$15,000.00
Lee A. Bowen & Carol W. Bowen
Patricia A. and Michael J. Gensic
Laura Gerdenich
Richard J. Halik Ph.D. & Nancy L. Halik R. N.
John B. Heisler & Cynthia M. Heisler
John S. and Rita M. Karliak
W. J. and M. A. Klinkner
Peter M. Mann & Betty L. Mann
Glenn J. McLalin
Charles R. Miller
Omer E. and Karla E. Olson-Bellfi
Robert S. Patterson
Ronald W. Rosie Jr.

Donald and Joanna Smith
Daniel Stewart and Amanda Holmes
Donna M. Winters
Randy and Joan Woods

Relight the Light Project, In Memory of George Grosvenor

Stephen and Stephanie Anable
Chrisi L. Bardenhagen,
Gary A. Bardenhagen
Susan R. and Al S. Belanger
Bonek Agency, Inc
Lee A. and Carol W. Bowen
D. Bruce and Debbie Taylor Simpson
Joe and Joni Burda
Mark Carlson Family, Bill Carlson
Berkley W. and Nancy R. Duck
James D and Roberta Eggert
Family, Crew at Carlson's Fisheries
Arlene Lapham and
Elizabeth Grosvenor
David A. and Sandra M. Grosvenor
George F Grosvenor/Connie Nelson POA
Alfred A. and Del M. Henderickson
Grace D. Johnson
Nancy P. Johnson
W.J. and M.A. Klinkner
W. J. and J. J. Larson
William A. and
Judith A. Livingston
Leigh C. Payment & Linda M. Payment
William V. and Jayne C. Payne
Robert and Arden Schlueter
LtCol Conway J. Smith, USMC Ret
Spence and Gretchen Walters
Charles L. and Mary H. Weber
Gunter and Judith Wise
Randy and Joan Woods



Contributed by the Grosvenor Family

FAREWELL, CAPTAIN! GEORGE GROSVENOR (OCT. 16, 1921-MARCH 17, 2008) Written by Linda Henry

How can one describe the essence of a man like George Grosvenor with mere words? When Molly Grosvenor spoke of her grandfather at the Memorial Service, she described him as a human being; a man who was kind and gentle, opinionated and argumentative, hardworking, down-to-earth, skilled and hugely endearing.

But to those of us who knew him as a captain, he seemed the material from which legends are born. When I first met George, I was in my twenties. He was running the Manitou Isle regularly at that time. I remember being fascinated even then by this quiet, capable man who seemed to be in an intimate relationship with his lady, Lake Michigan. It wasn't as if George and his machine would conquer the Lake but as if man and Lake worked together to accomplish their given task.

Back then, I was always struck by how self-contained he appeared as he stood at the wheel gazing out over the waters of the lake. There was generally much going on amongst the passengers, but George didn't pay that much mind. He was focused on the task at hand.

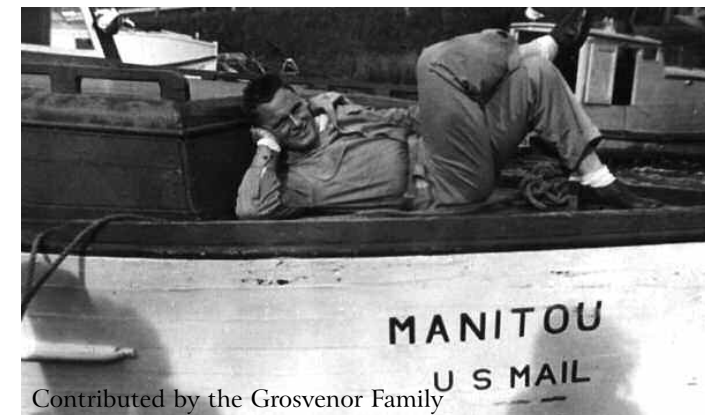
I remember the first trips I made to the islands. I would dutifully buy my ticket and hold on to it conscientiously so it wouldn't get lost. I'd watch George so as to be ready with my ticket the instant he came to collect it. But astonishingly, often he never did! Again there was that quality of being so self-contained and focused on his task that he couldn't be bothered with the trivialities of whether we had actually paid for this trip.

In the early 1990's, I began to work on the Islands for the National Park Service. That meant regular trips back and forth on the Grosvenor ferries, all summer long. George was still piloting at the time and with our increased contact, he became more accessible. Occasionally, I would ride in the wheelhouse of the Mishe Mokwa and we might have some conversation. Oh, he was still reticent and focused on his task, but that humorous comment and the twinkle in his eye would sometimes flicker into view.

Working and/or living on an island means that your happiness and even your life frequently depend on the boat captain. It is a relationship that is likely to develop into a unique affection and affinity in the passenger. It creates a sense of reliance, trust and admiration that may not disappear even if the situation does.

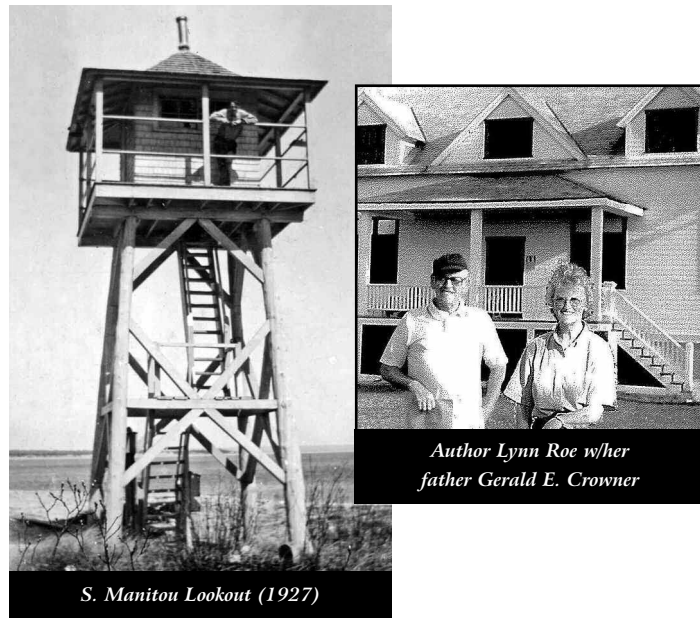
I feel fortunate to have been a passenger on George Grosvenor's boats. He was a remarkable captain and a man to remember. My life was enriched by the contacts I had with him and it saddens me that his knowledge and experience have gone from that beautiful Lake! He will be fondly remembered by many.

Farewell, Captain, and may you rest in peace.



Contributed by the Grosvenor Family

WINTER 1928
SOUTH MANITOU ISLAND
Written by Lynn (Crowner) Roe



S. Manitou Lookout (1927)

Writer's Note: My father, Gerald E. Crowner, served in the USCG on South Manitou Island, 1926-1928. The following excerpts are taken from a 4 x 7 inch diary he wrote while on the Island. It was given to me in July 2007, as I traveled home from our MIMS Annual Meeting. I stopped in Pentwater to visit the family who now lives in the old family home. They found this diary in the attic boards! (Talk about a house that has a story to tell.) To me, it is a treasure.

South Manitou Crew, January 1, 1928
 William Fisher CBM (L)
 Willis Mackey BM1c (L)
 Harry D. Tobin MoMM1c (L)
 Alfred M. Anderson Surf man #3
 Robert Johnson, #4
 Clifford A. Deering, Surfman #5
 Theodore C. Crain, Surfman #6
 Gerald E. Crowner, Surfman #7
 Fred J. Looze, Surfman #8
 Herbert E. Gould, Surfman #9

Sunday, January 1, 1928- *Resolutions are out of order for they are usually ephemeral. Rather, I shall continue to live a clean life, strive to keep my heart and mind open, my conscience clear and to remember, too, that the really good things of this life come only to those who try.*

A stormy, cold New Year's day it has been. Spent the morning writing to Al and Lucille and also some typing for Fisher. Such a wonderful dinner at 4:30! Ate too much as usual. Napped from 5 to 8. Lookout 8 to 10 PM. Thermometer 13 degrees when I left. Wrote a letter to Bill C. and then to bed at 11:30 PM

Monday, January 2, 1928- *Forenoon in the lookout. Snow flurries and occasional sunshine. Cold-12 degrees. After dinner, Cliff and I went up to little lake, along it on the ice and back by the Beck Road. It was nice in the woods but very cold in the clearings. Shaved and then loafed around 'till supper time.*

Mailed letter and then to bed at 7:15- mid-nite watch. Choppy J. sure has the motorcycle fever and maybe Cliff is going too! They spend hours contriving plans for their trip west. Folding cots, how far she'll go on a gallon. And rattlesnakes! Wrote to Mother and Dad.

Friday, January 20, 1928- *Not much work these days. We polished up shovels and gun holsters after drill and then I wrote my transcript. Wrote to Grand Rapids Press and practiced penmanship for an hour before going to lookout- 4 to 6 watch. Wrote to Aunt Mamie and the folks before going to bed. Bob sent for some dope on the Indian motorcycle and the information came addressed to. "B. Johnson" thus Ben Johnson got it and now he won't give it to Bob- Ha! Thermometer-5 degrees at 6PM. NO MAIL TODAY!*

Saturday, January 21, 1928- *Forenoon in the lookout and nothing exciting occurred. Sanded down a piece of walnut, shaved and wrote some titles for my photo album in the PM. Mail came late and I received two letters from my dear mother. It always seems good to hear from home. Went to a party at Burdick's at 8:00 and had a good time. Quite a bunch there too. Home late and tired. Those at the party were Grace, Ruth, Francis, James and Freddie Burdick, Mr. and Mrs. Burdick, John Tobin and his wife and baby, Betty Mae, Harold and Ed Tobin, Minnie Carpenter, Bob J., Bert Gould, Bertha Peth, Tom Foster, Scofield, Leon and Alonzo Warner, Geo Tobin, Crain and myself. Also Art Beck and Bud F.*

Monday, January 23, 1928- *Drilled in the snow and those big shoes of mine slip and slide like the deuce! Our woodpile is increasing in size daily and it won't be long now! Cliff & Crain on a day off so I had early dinner-12 to 2 watch. Wrote to Mother this afternoon. Practiced penmanship awhile after supper. One wouldn't think I knew what penmanship was if he judged me by the scrawl in this diary! To bed at about 8:00PM and soon to sleep as I was tired.*

Tuesday, January 24, 1928- *Out at 2:00AM and not too wide awake. Wind east, but not very cold. Day off and had a good time all day. Up to Scofield's in the AM and saw his new rifle and also listened to some good music. In the PM Harold and Ed Tobin and I went up to the little lake and fished. Caught one small pickerel. Went up to Tobin's and spent the evening playing caroms with Ed, John and Harold. Harold & Ed also gave us some music with the banjo and violin. Home quite late and rolled into a very comfortable bed! No mail today- Blowed and snowed.*

Saturday, January 28, 1928- *Lookout again this morning. I have been lucky on Saturday mornings. Washed this afternoon and finished at 2:00 PM Record Time! Harry cut my hair and I played 5 games of checkers with Fritz. To a party at Burdick's and enjoyed a good time. Home at 11PM and a midnite watch! Quite tired and only an hour! Cliff is quite sick. Been in bed all day and I have greased him twice.*

Sunday, January 29, 1928- *12-2AM watch. Sleepy and tired through most of it. Worked part of morning laying out the dumb compass. Slept from 1-3:45 and had a 4-6PM watch. Bummed around until 8:00 and then to bed and slept fine, but Mackey snored some! Cliff better today.*

Monday, January 30, 1928- *6-7:30AM watch. Mrs. Fisher sick and Dr. Murphy came across with Warner at noon. Worked on the lifeboat a while in the afternoon and then to bed. 10-12PM watch and real tired at 12. Tuesday,*

January 31, 1928- *Day off and up to little lake with Ed and Harold. Good time, but I'm not much of a fisherman. Fred Looze and his wife came up awhile in the afternoon. We ate our dinner there too. Over to Bertha's to a party after supper and had a fair time. I wasn't feeling to very. Well. Too many potatoes for dinner I guess. To bed at 10:30PM*

These are just a few of the happenings on SMI in 1928. Dad wrote many more, especially in his book. "The South Manitou Story," with many photos. Book sales fund our Gerald E. Crowner Memorial Scholarship. Applicants must write an essay about the history of South Manitou Island and/or the Manitou Passage. Deadline for applicants is June 1, 2008 Mail to MIMS, Box 177, MI 49630 Att: Scholarship Application

LILLIAN (RAIFORD) BECK
AUGUST 18, 1917- MARCH 2008
Written by Linda Henry



We'd like to make mention of the passing of Lillian (Raiford) Beck. Although she never lived on the islands her interest in history and marriage to Irwin Beck (grandson of Islander August Beck) combined to create a link that was noteworthy.

In 1999, she even published a book about the Beck family's immigration from Germany to South Manitou. It is a charming, creatively written document somewhat like a scrapbook with lots of photos, sketches and cut-outs.

Lillian was born in Haskell, Arkansas on August 18, 1917. She spent her childhood there but during WWII, she went to Japan as a member of the Civilian Corps. Irwin Beck also went to Japan at this time but he went as a serviceman in the medical corps. It was by way of these circuitous routes that the two of them met in Japan, fell in love and married. Irwin remembers a young woman with startling red hair and a green coat. Her trademark when she was young was a feather that she always wore in her hair.

Thus began their sixty years together. After their marriage in Arkansas in 1947, they moved to northern Michigan and lived out their life together not far from Irwin's family farm. They were well known in the area for their strawberries, raspberries, rhubarb, and whimsical antiques among other things.

Irwin still resides at their farm on Stormer Road and he says there will be rhubarb this spring! Stop in and pick some up

DONALD A. MORRIS
Contributed by Gene Warner

Donald A. Morris, Ph.D., 5th president of the Memorial Society, died Wednesday, April 16 in Jackson, MI. He was 73, passing after a five-year struggle with Alzheimer's disease.

Don was the fourth President of SMMS, serving three terms from 1997 to 2003. He was connected to the islands through his marriage in 1958 to Zella Mae Stormer, daughter of Joseph Stormer of North, who was married to Ethel Furst of South. During his tenure, he encouraged the Memorial Society to become more directly involved in historic preservation projects on South Manitou, and "to be more visible and vocal on behalf of South Manitou Island with the Park Service, the media, and members of Congress."

During his professional career, Don served as president of Olivet College from 1977 to 1992. Prior to that, he held positions as executive vice president at Hobart and William Smith Colleges in Geneva, N.Y.; administrative assistant of university relations at Wayne State University; and managing editor of news services and manager of special services at the University of Michigan. In addition to his administrative background, he served as an education writer and reporter for the Detroit Times. Don earned a bachelor's degree from Wayne State University, and a master's degree and doctorate from the University of Michigan. He received a Doctor of Laws, honoris causa, from Olivet in 1987.

As recorded in the Memorial Society's archives, Don's efforts on behalf of the Society were earnest, honest and considerable. They are affectionately remembered, and will forever be appreciated.

PORT ONEIDA FAIR
Written by Joe and Rhonda Kruch

It is the mission of the Port Oneida Rural Arts and Culture Fair to promote the preservation of rural traditional skills, crafts, landscapes and communities of the Upper Great Lakes Region through education, artistic expression and the development of a coalition of community organizations.

Goals:

- To Showcase the Port Oneida Rural Historic District as a regional resource.
- To present American Indian and Upper Great Lakes Region rural cultural crafts, skills and traditions for the education of the public.
- To present artistic expressions that clearly takes inspiration from the rural landscape, traditional crafts or history of the Upper Great Lakes Region.
- To celebrate the diverse ethnic heritage and history of Leelanau County and the Manitou Islands.

The National Lakeshore's Port Oneida Rural Arts and Culture Fair gives MIMS' members a great opportunity to present family histories as some Island families eventually migrated from the islands to Port Oneida and surrounding countryside. The island's role takes on some national significance as South Manitou's safe deep harbor allowed it to become a way station/refueling stop as ships traversed the Great Lakes waterways between Buffalo, NY and Chicago, IL contributing to the settlement of the Upper Great Lakes and the American West as settlers migrated westward upon reaching Chicago.

The agricultural theme of the fair lends itself to showcase the islands role and eventual fame in the production of certified seed crops that brought its national and international acclaim for its pure strain of Rosen Rye and further notoriety in the production of certified Michelite Pea Bean seed stock, greatly increasing the national production of these crops. MIMS' Members are greatly encouraged to be a voice for the islands past by participating in the increasingly popular lakeshore event on Friday, August 8th and Saturday, August 9th.

RECORDING ORAL HISTORIES

The MIMS Board and NPS are interested in your memories of life on South Manitou Island from bygone times. From early June until mid August, there will be an interpreter on South Manitou Island recording oral histories of former island residents and their descendants. Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore is willing to accommodate any former islanders, willing to share their stories, for a night or two in June or July. The interpreter will also be available to record oral histories at our annual meeting on Saturday, July 26, 2008 and our annual excursion on Sunday, July 27, 2008. Please contact Rhonda Kruch (989-345-1778) to arrange your interview on South Manitou Island, annual meeting, and/or excursion. We look forward to hearing from you!