



P.O. Box 177  
Empire, Michigan 49630

1997/1998, Vol.8, No.1

March 1997

## GREETINGS FRIENDS!!

### SURFING IMAGES

Imagine, if you will, the many uses of the word, "surf" There are surf boats, surfmen, pounding of the surf, windsurfing ... all words that conjure up images of hearty people, the wind in their faces or maybe if they're lucky at their backs. There is a new use of "surf" and with it you can cruise many peoples' thoughts and images of South Manitou Island. I'm speaking of surfing the World Wide Web. Several international photographers (and several amateur ones) have sample photos of South Manitou Island available to view; the National Park Service has a beautiful photo of the Lighthouse. Pictures of the surf and the Lighthouse have the ability to boost anyone through the last vestiges of winter, and it's available at the touch of your modem. For those of you unfamiliar with this technology, check out your local library or college or extended education classes. Maybe your local junior or high school has evening classes for the citizens in your community. Try "[www.cr.nps.gov/maritime/](http://www.cr.nps.gov/maritime/)" or "[www.ipl.org/exhibit/light](http://www.ipl.org/exhibit/light)." You'll find that people from faraway places hold South Manitou Island close to their heart and they share their thoughts as well as their images of what for many of us is our ancestral home.

People will continue to take photographs of images that they want to remember; poets and musicians are still inspired to compose. The Web is an extension of how these artists can share their creations. Take advantage of their generosity and feel, hear and see the surf and our beloved Island.

by Margaret Braden

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### Nominations Committee

The Nominating Committee is currently putting together a slate of nominees for the South Manitou Memorial Society Board of Officers. All positions (President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer) are up for

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re-election at the July 26, 1997 Annual Meeting. Don Morris is the Chairman of the Committee. Please send nominations to him at the following addresses:

From March through April 30: 6551 E. Dorado Blvd.  
Tucson, AZ 85715-4705  
From April 30 through July: 8330 S. Dunn's Farm Road  
Maple City, MI 49664-9614

Please participate! We appreciate your volunteerism!

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Below is the DRAFT MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT which was briefly discussed at the Annual Meeting. Please look it over and let Paul Rocheleau know how you feel about this agreement. Do you imagine yourself participating in these activities? We need your comments and concerns to move forward with this agreement at the Annual Meeting in July 1997. THANKS!

**DRAFT**

**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**

**between**

**THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**

**and**

**THE SOUTH MANITOU MEMORIAL SOCIETY**

THIS AGREEMENT is hereby entered into between the South Manitou Memorial Society, hereinafter known as the Society, and the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, hereinafter known as the NPS, covering mutual objectives which will benefit the National Park System.

WHEREAS, it is the purpose of the NPS to preserve, interpret, and manage the National Park System for the benefit, education, and enjoyment of the people of the United States, as provided for in the Act of August 25, 1916 (16 U.S.C 1 et.seq.); and,

WHEREAS, the NPS wishes to develop and improve cooperative efforts that would increase public information and historical and cultural education about South Manitou Island within Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore; and,

WHEREAS, Public Law 91-383 Stat. 826 (16 U.S.C. 1a-2(g)) authorizes the National Park Service to enter into cooperative agreements with appropriate organizations in order to provide such services; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Act of June 5, 1920 (16 U.S.C. 6), the National Park Service is authorized to accept donations for the purposes embraced by this Memorandum of Agreement; and,

WHEREAS, Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, a unit of the National Park System, would receive services and historical and cultural education as prescribed in the Agreement; and whereas the benefits to the

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Lakeshore are consistent with the intent of Congress in authorizing the Lakeshore as part of the National Park System; and,

WHEREAS, the Society was created in 1989 and "Dedicated to the preservation of our history in order that we may pass the light of our symbol to the future generations"; and,

WHEREAS, the Society members are distinctly qualified and willing to assist the NPS by providing educational activities and interpretive historical and cultural information that otherwise would not be available.

**Article II. Statement of Work**

NOW THEREFORE the parties agree as follows:

1. The NPS authorizes the Society to provide historical and cultural education services on park lands including, but not limited to: historical and cultural education programs for school children, teacher training, field trips for the general public, development of interpretive media, and other community service activities relative to historical and cultural education.
2. Interpretive media and programs developed by the Society shall be in keeping with the legislative purposes of Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore and the National Park Service, and shall be subject to the laws governing the National Park System and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder. Such activities and media should reflect the provisions of NPS Interpretation Guidelines (NPS-6). The Superintendent reserves the right to determine and control the nature and type of services and activities which may be offered by the Society on park lands.
3. Upon request of the Society the Superintendent agrees, subject to the availability of staff and funds, to provide such auditing, technical and other assistance to the Society as he may be able and authorized to provide under applicable laws insofar as the assistance relates to the service authorized under this Agreement.
4. The NPS and the Society further agree that, by supplemental agreement, the Society may provide additional services which support the mission of the park and are within the scope and purposes of the Society.

### **Article III. Term of Agreement**

This Memorandum of Agreement shall be effective when signed by both parties and shall continue for a period of five years from that date. Any modifications to this Agreement may be proposed by either party, in writing, and shall become effective upon approval of both parties.

Either party may terminate this Agreement provided that written notice be provided at least 90 days in advance.

### **Article IV. Key Officials**

National Park Service: Superintendent  
 Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore  
 9922 Front Street  
 Empire, Michigan 49630

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South Manitou Memorial Society: President  
 South Manitou Memorial Society  
 P.O. Box 177  
 Empire, Michigan 49630

### **Article V. Approvals**

The Society shall not publicize or circulate promotional material which states or implies Government endorsement of a product, service, or position which the Society represents, except with prior written approval of the Superintendent.

The Society and the Superintendent shall maintain close liaison and shall consult regularly on all matters pertaining to activities authorized by this Agreement, including but not limited to public information releases and educational and cultural programs.

## Article VI Reports

The Society will provide the Lakeshore with copies of the Society's newsletters and other publications as they are released.

## Article VII. General Requirements

No member or delegate to Congress, or resident Commissioner, shall be admitted to any share or part of this Agreement or to any benefit that may arise therefrom, but this provision shall not be construed to extend to this Agreement if made with a corporation for its general benefit.

### Signatures

#### AGREED TO BY:

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Paul Rocheleau, President  
South Manitou Memorial Society

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Ivan D. Miller, Superintendent  
Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore

## NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL PARK

### NEW FEE PROGRAM AT SLEEPING BEAR DUNES

According to Superintendent Ivan Miller, Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore will participate in a fee demonstration program as park facilities reopen beginning in April, 1997. The Lakeshore has been selected as a participant in the new Congressionally-mandated program which authorizes up to 100 National Park Service areas to increase fees or begin fee collection programs.

Entrance fees will be collected at several Lakeshore locations, including North and South Manitou islands. An annual permit for a vehicle and all occupants will be available for \$15.00, and a seven-day permit for

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a vehicle and all occupants will be \$7.00. In addition, the Golden Eagle, Golden Age and Golden Access passports will be honored for park entrance and are available at the visitor center in Empire.

The Golden Eagle Passport which permits entrance into all federal recreation areas for one year is available for \$50.00, The Golden Age Passport is a lifetime permit available to anyone 62 years or older, for a one-time fee of \$10.00. The Golden Access Passport is a lifetime permit available at no charge for anyone who is blind or permanently disabled.

Camping fees will be charged at the mainland developed campgrounds (D.H. Day and Platte River), at the mainland backcountry campgrounds (White Pine and Valley View), and on the Manitou Islands.

## SLEEPING BEAR'S MARITIME MUSEUM

By Bill Herd, National Park Ranger

A few times each year, I am contacted by museum organizations conducting surveys. They may be making an inventory of historic sites or artifacts, updating a museum travel guide or just getting a feel for what other museums in the area are doing. Some of the recent ones have been national inventories of maritime

resources. The conversation is always interesting.

After introducing himself and the purposes for his call, he gets down to business.

*"Your museum is named the Sleeping Bear Point Coast Guard Station Maritime Museum?"* he asks.

*"Yes, that's right, although its primary exhibits are about the U.S. LifeSaving Service, not the Coast Guard,"* I respond.

*"Can you give me directions for finding your maritime museum?"* he continues.

*"Well, that's kind of a difficult question. Can we come back to that later?"* I beg.

*"Okay,"* he says somewhat puzzled. *"I understand that you have a surfboat on exhibit in the boathouse."*

*"Yes, actually we have a reproduction of a Beebe-McClellan and an original Higgins and Gifford,"* I assert.

*"So you have two surfboats?"*

*"No, actually we have five surfboats on exhibit."* I declare.

*"Really!"* His voice indicates surprise. After a pause he inquires. *"Are they all exhibited in the boathouse?"*

*"No, only two, the others are in the Cannery Boat Museum."*

*"Is that part of the Coast Guard Station Museum?"* he quizzes.

*"No,"* I answer, *"It is down the beach about a quarter of a mile in the Glen Haven Historic Village."*

*"Now let me see if I have got this right, you have a Coast Guard Station Maritime Museum and a Cannery Boat Museum and a Historic Village. Is this right?"* he requests.

*"No. We have three Historic Villages. There is one on the mainland and one each on South and North Manitou Island."*

Now there is a longer pause while the interviewer attempts to digest this new information. He had begun the conversation thinking that he was interviewing a small museum with a couple of rooms of exhibits. Now he realized that we have more historic buildings than most big museums have rooms. After a while he continues.

*"Let me ask you some questions about the Coast Guard Station."*

*"Which one?"* I reply. *"We have three of those too."*

Now I am having fun but not necessarily at the interviewer's expense. I know that after the initial confusion the interviewer will be delighted to have discovered so many maritime resources being preserved and

interpreted. After a straight forward discussion about the three Coast Guard Stations, I get my next chance. He asks *"Do you have daily tours of the station?"*

*"We have daily tours of the lighthouse."* I declare enthusiastically.

*"How many lighthouses do you have?"* he grills, getting into the spirit of the conversation.

*"There are several nearby, but we just have one. But we do have one of the best collections of historic lighthouse equipment in the Great Lakes Region."* I add proudly.

*"With all those lighthouses and Life-Saving Stations, it must have been considered a dangerous area. Are there any shipwrecks still remaining?"*

*"Well the area between the mainland and the islands is a State Underwater Preserve set aside to protect the twenty-five known shipwrecks."* I articulate.

*"Wonderful,"* he exclaims. *"People say it is beautiful up there. I suppose that the shoreline is pretty well-developed?"*

*"Not at all,"* I contend, *"most of the 68 miles of the National Lakeshore is undeveloped and looks just like it did when there were sailing ships and Life-Saving Stations."*

*"Really?"*

Now he spends some time catching up on his paper work, filling in the blanks on his questionnaire based on our conversation. After a long pause, he speaks again. *"Now I see why giving directions is a complicated question, your maritime museum is many different buildings in many different places."*

*"Our maritime museum also includes the shoreline, islands, harbors, shoals, navigational landmarks, dunes and the other natural features that make up the historic setting."* I add. *"It is really a historic maritime landscape. Just tell people to come to the Visitor Center and we will help them get to where they want to go."*

*"There certainly can't be many places like this still around."* he says.

*"I don't know of any others,"* I reply.

(Thank you Bill for allowing us to print your story!!!!)

**"I REMEMBER" ...**

## **ALONZO J. SLYFIELD**

Alonzo J. Slyfield, M.D., Frankfort, was born in Concord, Vt., June 1, 1825. He came with his parents to Michigan when seven years of age, landing beside a floating bridge in Pine River, in St. Clair, from the old steamer Gratiot. There, chiefly, he spent his youth and early manhood. He studied medicine in Hyde Park, Vermont, with Dr. A. Morse, having previously spent three years in medical research among the Indians. On his return to St. Clair he opened a drug store, and commenced the practice of medicine on the eclectic system. On Dec. 10, 1848, he was married to Miss Alice J. Latham, of China, St. Clair County. She was born in Greenwich, Washington County, N.Y., May 26, 1826. Their children are Nellie M., now deceased, Charles B., Mary, now deceased, Edwin R., Elmer E., George W., and Jennie A. In August, 1853, after a severe illness, Mr. Slyfield accepted a situation as keeper of the lighthouse on Manitou Island, and remained there nearly ten years. From there he removed to Empire Bay, purchased lands, and opened a pioneer home for himself and family. Late in the fall he left his family alone and returned to Manitou for a boat load of provisions and became weather bound there for about three weeks. In his third attempt to leave he had the help of another person and succeeded. That night the ice formed heavily on the beach, closing up all transition for the winter, but he had made good his escape and joined his anxious family with unspeakable satisfaction. He resided there part of two years, and then

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he became keeper of the lighthouse at Point Betsie and remained nearly twenty-two years. The instruction of his children he secured partly by private teaching in his family and partly at the school in Benzonia. While at Point Betsie the doctor resumed his medical practice, and endured severe hardships in visiting the sick throughout the neighborhood. During one winter he went repeatedly to Almira and vicinity to visit and treat those who became ill through want and hardship. He waded the Platte River eighteen times, standing barefoot on the ice to dress himself at the shore, and then resumed his journey on snow-shoes, in snow four feet deep. He was one of the first purchasers of village lots in Frankfort village. He thinks Mr. Coggshall made the first and he the second purchase of building lots in the place. The doctor now has a beautiful residence on Forest Avenue, and other property in the village, and 200 acres of real estate south of the river. He has served as justice of the peace eight years, and six years as county coroner.

The wreck of the J.Y. Scammon in 1854 is thus described by Mr. Slyfield.

"While seated here alone, watching my light to-night, my thoughts drift back to a scene of twenty-five years ago. On the 8th of June, 1854, I was keeper of the South Manitou Island light. The wind that day blew from the northeast a living gale, and, strange to say, snow fell to a depth of six inches, but owing to a rain, it soon melted away. The sea was running high, and seemed as though it could not grow larger, but still the storm increased. In the height of the storm a brig was seen making for the island. It proved to be the brig J.Y. Scammon, owned by Hannah, Lay & Co., of Grand Traverse. I saw the doomed vessel slowly nearing the beach, and, knowing she would soon be ashore if her anchors did not fetch her up, and among the breakers that were dashing and boiling and foaming white against the shore, and perhaps drown the crew, I came to the conclusion that something must be done to get communication to them. The thought came to me like a flash to write a note and send it to them in a bottle. I then took a small rope and bottle in my hands, held them aloft, and made signs to the crew to send me a small line, which they soon understood, and fastening a line to a buoy and throwing it overboard, was but a moment's work. It soon reached the shore. I attached the bottle containing a note and it was hauled on board, and the passengers, as well as crew, were not long in learning my design, and a shout of joy went up from every mouth. The note was, 'Can I render you any assistance? If so, send word by bottle.' The answer came back per the same trusty little messenger, saying, 'Our big chain has parted, and the small one will not hold us long. Look out for us ashore.' I patrolled the shore and in about an hour after that, the brig came on broadside, The men launched a spare spar over the rail, the end resting in shoal water. The mate mounted it, and slid down, and wading through the water, was helped

ashore. Next followed four ladies, who came ashore in about the same manner, the mate and I assisting them as they came in reach. And so all crew were safely landed, much to their joy.

"I still have in my possession a spy-glass, which I purchased from the captain. On it is engraved the name of 'J.Y. Scammon', and while in daily use it often reminds me of the wrecking of the brig nearly a quarter of a century ago, when the marine interest, now grown to gigantic proportions, was yet in its infancy.

"On our return with the shipwrecked crew to the light-house, we found that during my absence I had been blessed by the arrival of an eight-pound blue-eyed boy, and there was indeed a feeling of happiness in the station that night, and I felt satisfied that I had accomplished more that day than on any other day of my previous life. That child has grown up to manhood, and from his early years has always been a careful watcher for the safety of lives from wrecks; and has while quite young assisted me in saving the crew from another wreck, under similar circumstances. He has spent his whole life in handling boats in the surf and on the old lake at his occupation in fishing. He, at such times, is careful, considerate and cool, and would be a valuable acquisition to the United States Life Saving Service."

From the Traverse City Historical Society's reprint of the 1884 "The Traverse City Region"  
Thanks to Joan Carlson for acquiring this article and suggesting we print it!

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**SOUTH MANITOU MEMORIAL SOCIETY**  
**P.O. BOX 177**  
**EMPIRE, MICHIGAN 49630**



**SOUTH MANITOU MEMORIAL SOCIETY**  
**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY/STATE/ZIP:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DONATION:** \_\_\_\_\_ **\$50.00** \_\_\_\_\_ **\$10.00**

\_\_\_\_\_ **\$100.00** \_\_\_\_\_ **\$25.00** \_\_\_\_\_ **\$OTHER**

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