



# Manitou Memories

Volume I

Winter 2007

Issue 1

# Manitou Memories

## IN MEMORY OF PAUL MALESKI

A phone call to Rita Hadra Rusco found her in good spirits, despite her health not being the best nor her memory, she admitted. "Life is full of hardships", she related, "but life's blessings keep one going", but none more for her than her 2 year old great granddaughter, that has brought her "so much joy to be thankful for the last few years".

Rita had hoped to make a trip to her beloved NMI this past September 9th, she turned 86 on the 8th, with the Leelanau Historical Society; but the trip was cancelled due to bad weather. That misfortune, however, gave her the opportunity of being able to visit Paul Maleski. Having been ill for some time Paul was now at the Traverse City Hospital, as it turned out this was Rita's last chance to visit, as Paul passed away a few weeks later at the age of 85. Rita said, Paul would tease her at times about being a few months older than him, but Rita would remind him, that she looked younger than he did.

Paul grasping Rita's hand recalled the first time they met. While unloading a boat with another man, soon after arriving on the island, he was greeted by Rita and her husband Jack, offering some fresh made sandwiches (a gift for island hospitality Rita has never lost). Rita said she recalled the meeting after Paul related the story, impressed by his keen sense of memory. Paul didn't live on the island when Rita was there, but would visit, often hunting and trapping. Rita remembering Paul found him to be an "interesting, easy going, self-made man, a good friend", who she'll miss.



## Thank you for your recent contribution

Harry Albright  
Maureen Albright  
Sarah B Austin  
*(In Memory of Ed & Esther Riker, Loyal B Austin)*

W. G. Boales  
Marcella Brightman  
Mr. Paul Burton  
Sandra J Champion  
Steven Champion  
Belinda J Coker  
Marvin Coker  
Dorothy Cooley  
Chris Cubberly  
Kim Cubberly  
Tim Cubberly  
Michael Cunningham  
Bill Deblaey  
Johanna M Dekok  
Cynthia Dewes  
Ed Dewes  
Bob Elk  
Chris Elk  
Maddies Elk  
Sarah Elk  
James Failing  
Janet Frascato  
Charlie Gum  
Dr. Richard J Halik  
Pat Rhoades-Hall  
Steve Harold  
Cindy Heisler  
John Heisler  
Mr. Ellis H. Henniges  
Margaret E Hodge  
Neil Hodges  
Dale E Hutzler  
Grace Johnson  
Cleo Kelenske

Sylvia B Kruger  
Paula Leinbach  
Martin & Rose Leyrer  
*(In Memory of Ed & Esther Riker)*  
Peggy Marks  
*(In Memorandum Ed & Esther Riker)*

Cheryl McDaniel  
Mr. David McDaniel  
Glenn J McLalin  
Germaine Oberst  
Robert A Oberst  
John & Mary Anne Otten  
*(In Memory of Ed & Esther Riker)*

Mr. Orvil J. Richardson  
Lynn Roe  
Rose Marie Romero  
Marie T Roy  
Stephen R Roy  
Carol A. Sanctorum  
Bake Shaffer  
Billy & Maddy Shaffer  
Patricia Shaffer  
John A Shaul  
Ruth Sheridan  
*(In Memory of The Riker Family)*

Marjie Riker Striebler  
*(In Memory of Ed & Esther Riker)*  
Craig Van Sumeren  
Mary Jo VanSumerem  
Laura Tetrault  
*(In Memory of Ed & Esther Riker)*

Jane Thompson  
Thomas E. Thompson  
Stan Tobin  
Harold J Wallace  
Myrtle Warner  
Hank Zavislak  
Lynn Zavislak

## RESTORATION OF THE SOUTH MANITOU ISLAND SCHOOLHOUSE BY GWEN GLATZ

Our work on the little one room schoolhouse started in Sept. 2004. Five women went to the island for a weekend and started on the ceiling drywall. I was the only one of the five of us that had ever been to the island before that day. My friend, Sarah Wendt told me her sister, Anna knew how to drywall. And that's where it all started. Anna DeCoster became our construction technician. We named our group "The All Girl Drywall Team".

The following year we added men to our volunteer group and changed our name to "The All Girl Drywall Team Plus More". When I would first introduce Anna to all the new volunteers (men) and tell them she was in charge, there were a few questioning looks but it didn't take long for those that really knew about construction to develop a true respect for her. Anna and her sister Sarah (25 yrs. old) are a great working team. Anna is a 29 year old with a husband and two small boys. Neither girl has any previous connection to SMI but quickly became totally involved with the Island. It's hard for me to single out just one or two of these volunteers they are all talented, amazing and very giving, hard working people. And it seemed each one had a special talent and we used all of them.

We started with a building that had graffiti, walls in very bad shape with a lot of the plaster and lath destroyed or missing, a building being used for storage and where the birds called home. Help came from several organizations. Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore (Lakeshore) gave us the guidance for what we could do to this historic building plus transporting some of our construction materials to SMI. Manitou Island Memorial Society (MIMS) paid for ALL the construction material for this whole project. The Manitou Island Transit (MIT) was a huge help, transporting the majority of our supplies, lumber, power tools that volunteers brought from home big heavy things, air compressor, and a shop vac. The Grovesnor family was wonderful loading many of our supplies themselves and allowing our things, to take over a big part of their boat. They never once told us "No". John Kenney at Northwoods Resources, Inc. in Glen Arbor came through for us several times. If we ended up needing something we didn't have on the Island I called John, if he didn't have it he would find it. After closing his business that day, John would pick up



the material, drive it to Leland, and unload it behind the gift shop at MIT. The Grovesnor's would load it on the boat and we would have it the next morning. Amazing!

There is no way I can mention all the people and groups that gave us help, however we are so grateful to all. There were 24 volunteers that gave their time over the last two years to be part of this project. Thankfully there were no injuries, although one volunteer did slip, and his foot went into the toilet. Another one fell through the floor in the coat room. I figured you might like to know about those things! Several places in the class room's rotted flooring have been replaced by our skilled carpenter volunteer, Peter Jenks. While working, we found wonderful personal touches. The initials "G. H." carved into the wainscot. In the coat room students wrote messages to each other under their coat hooks, that said, "stay off my hook", etc. These treasures have been saved and are there for you to see. A chalkboard was created on the north wall the exact same location and size as what had been there. I understand that was the students practice board. The Riker family with Richard Riker facilitating the donation to the Lakeshore, of student desks which had been previously in the little SMI schoolhouse, tells a story with the carvings left on their desk tops. Bill Herd from the Lakeshore located a beautiful old wood burning stove and these items now sit in the classroom.

The volunteers together purchased an American National Flag and stand which sits proudly in the corner. It really does look like a school room now. I continue to get information from people who went to school there about what the room looked like. So, if there is anyone else that can share other school stories or photos, please contact:

MIMS, PO Box 177  
Empire, MI 49630  
www.manitouislands.org

## UP COMING PROJECTS

### South Manitou, Haas/Jenks cottage

The only Montgomery Ward kit House on South Manitou Island. This small cottage is located in the village across from the visitors center.

#### Proposal of Cottage:

Stabilization of foundation. Replace roof and plaster work. Paint interior and exterior structure.

### George C. Hutzler/Riker Farm

Joe Kruch volunteered as a tractor operator in September 2005, clearing fields at the George Conrad Hutzler farm, sponsored by Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear with MIMS financial support. Approximately 20 acres were cleared the first week, completing in August and in September 2006. Joe's wife Rhonda, along with a brother, Bob, friend Neil, cleared a substantial portion of the hillside of trees down from the George C. Hutzler grave, overlooking the farm. In September, Joe's lone week-long venture was cut short due to bad weather, but not before all but a few dozen good sized young trees were left standing. Further field clearing and the long awaited unobstructed hill top grave vista will continue into the future.

#### Proposal of C. Hutzler/Riker Farm:

Continued maintenance and further field clearing.

### Theodore Beck Farm (Lodge)

This unique farm sitting on a spectacular view looking south across the passage to Sleeping Bear Dunes, Empire Bluffs, and open Lakeshore, is in need of continued stabilization. In 2000 securing all windows and door openings was achieved. Several hard working volunteers prepared the site for rebuilding the utility room and removal of the failing front porch, which was accomplished summer/fall of 2005.

#### Proposal of T. Beck Farm/ The Lodge:

Rebuild front porch to original historical grade. Rebuild side porch to original design. Stabilization of house foundation.

### SMI, Schoolhouse

Ongoing restoration of this one room schoolhouse is near completion.

#### Proposal of Schoolhouse:

A framed 5 x 4 blackboard for behind teacher's desk. 2 wood framed pictures for president's photos.

### Cottages on North and South Islands

Historical buildings that provide great educational resources to visitors. These structures tell the Manitou story of families, island life, and the ability to overcome barriers.

#### Proposal of cottages:

Prepare exterior and interior walls for painting. Large quantity of white oil base, white latex paints and volunteers are required.



George C. Hutzler/Riker Farm



George C. Hutzler/Riker Farm



Theodore Beck Farm (Lodge)



Theodore Beck Farm (Lodge)

## HIGH IMPORTANCE !

\*Manitou Islands Memorial Society is purposing annual dues for its membership. To help preserve the history and cultural traditions of Michigan's Manitou Islands, we find it necessary to raise additional funds to support, preservation of physical historic and cultural assets on the islands. You may respond before February 28, 2007 with any comments or concerns regarding this change to:

#### MIMS

P.O. Box 177

Empire, MI 49630-0177

#### Purposed Change

Beach Comber  \$ 25.00 Weekender  \$ 50.00

Island Wanderer  \$100.00 Island Conservator  \$250.00

Island Guardian  \$500.00 Honorary Islander  (\$\_\_\_\_\_)

#### To further our goals of island preservation;

Any contribution is greatly appreciated.

Make checks payable to: MIMS, a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization

\*When submitting your next contribution, please include a current e-mail contact (family member, or friend, if you do not have a personal e-mail address.)

This will assist us in contacting you with current MIMS activities, as well as Lakeshore communications in a timely and frequent manner.

## TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE:

It is extremely important for the MIMS membership to send comments concerning the cultural resources as part of the General Management Plan currently underway at the park.

Apparently due to the presumed lack of comments concerning cultural resources to date, the GMP team is assuming that interest in the cultural resources has waned and because of this when the alternatives come out in the next public review you will be seeing alternatives that include removing Cottage Row, Bournique Cottage, and West Side Barn for NMI, and the Farms on SMI.

This document will take a couple of years to complete, but now is when those alternatives are being developed. The park needs to hear comments from anyone and everyone concerning the need to preserve the cultural resources on both islands.

To comment go to the park website, (<http://www.nps.gov/slbe>), click on the General Management Plan under Quicklinks. Comments can be done online. You may always repeat the same comments, but you must comment.

Their mailing address is:

Superintendent, Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore  
9922 Front Street

Empire, MI 49630

## IN MEMORADUM 2006

Lois Farley, Donald Good, Otto Kelenske, Blake Beck Lott, Ann Hutzler, Fae (Smith) Jagman, and Paul Maleski, Rosie Angelus

## ANNUAL REUNION MEETING AND EXCURSION 2006

\*Held July 29/30 with record attendance!

\*Secretary's report; increase 46 new members.

\*Treasurer's report; projects 2006/fundraising 2007

\*Election of Officers, Paul Rocheleau, as President and Camille Garber, as Treasurer

\*Vice President Bill Goeman

Gene Warner resigned as Secretary pro tem

\*Recogniziton of Ethel (Furst) Stormer's 100th Birthday!

\*Members voted; new name of newsletter, Manitou Memories

\*Excursion SMI; appreciation of volunteers

\*Mike Grosvenor recognized by MIMS for Manitou Island

Transit, the important role it plays for successful partnerships

\*Tour of the schoolhouse; restoration near completion

\*Burial services held for members of the Sheridan family & Civil War reenactment service greeted many descendants, family and friends

## TREASURERS REPORT

July 30, 2005-July29, 2006

#### Assets

Funds: Glenn Furst Memorial Fund /CD \$10,000.00

#### Cash

MONEY MARKET ACCT \$ 3,234.70

CHECKING ACCT \$ 3,310.00

NET WORTH \$16,544.70

#### REVENUE AND EXPENSES

##### Revenue:

Contributions \$ 3,742.50

Interest on Money Market 19.00

Interest on CD 353.00

Total Revenue \$ 4,114.50

##### Expenditures:

Meeting \$ 465.52

Newsletter \$1,232.41

Miscellaneous/operating costs \$ 1,447.00

Projects \$ 6,634.00

Matching Grant, \$ 3,400.00

(Preserve Historical Sleeping Bear)

\$13,179.00

Revenue/ Expenditures; off set by mm acct (\$ 9,064.50)

Contributions this period did not meet a 50% or higher target mark. Fifty cents for every dollar donated is necessary to support organizational projects beyond operating cost. It is with great confidence, creating an agenda for fundraising would potentially improve revenues to support future projects and the long term viability of the organization.

#### NEW BOARD MEMBER

Rhonda Kruch has accepted the position of secretary. More about Rhonda in our next newsletter, Welcome aboard Rhonda!